

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

JULY/AUGUST 2021 • VOLUME 126 • ISSUE 4



Dave Weigley, President



Emmanuel Asiedu, Treasurer



Rick Remmers, Executive Secretary



**Constituency Delegates
Re-Elect Union Leaders
for 2021–2026 Term**

Perspectives

Share the Word

It is an honor and privilege to be invited to serve the Columbia Union Conference for the 2021–2026 quinquennium. We solicit your prayers for our team, union family and worldwide church.

On the road ahead, there will be many challenges. Matthew 24 forewarned that in the last days our world would be wrought with war and conflict, pestilence and poverty, natural disasters and illnesses of every kind. Indeed, we begin this new quinquennium emerging from a global pandemic that has claimed millions of lives.

On the road ahead, there will also be many opportunities. More than 60 million residents representing every nation, kindred, tongue and people live and work in our union territory. They are our neighbors, co-workers, classmates, friends and family, and we are called to go and share the Word with them. They need to know that, despite the headlines, there is good news: *Jesus is coming soon!*

HOW CAN WE DO THIS?

Many members are already engaged in sharing the Word, but there is a need for many more—including you—to get involved, using your unique gifts and abilities. As Ellen White suggests, “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me’” (*Ministry of Healing*, p. 143).

As we journey toward the kingdom—no matter what we encounter on the road ahead—let’s prayerfully commit ourselves to *experience the mission* of preparing people for Christ’s soon return.

Let’s go and share the Word!—*Columbia Union Leadership Team*



The 2021–2026 Columbia Union leadership team: Donovan Ross, vice president for Education; Rubén A. Ramos, vice president for Multilingual Ministries; Celeste Ryan Blyden, vice president for Strategic Communication; Rick Remmers, executive secretary; Dave Weigley, president; Emmanuel Asiedu, treasurer; Frank Bondurant, vice president for Ministries Development; and Lisa Saveikis Burrow, vice president and general counsel

VISITOR

Celeste Ryan Blyden ■ Editor and Publisher
V. Michelle Bernard ■ News, Features and Online Editor
Ricardo Bacchus ■ Newsletter Editor
Kelly Butler Coe ■ Art Director and Designer
Sandra Jones ■ Advertising and Circulation Manager

The *Visitor* is a publication of the Columbia Union Conference reaching nearly 65,000 Seventh-day Adventist homes in the Mid-Atlantic area and 75,000 online users. The *Visitor* provides news and information, inspiration for effective ministry and insight on issues with a spiritual focus to help engage members in experiencing the mission.

CONTACT ■ (410) 997-3414 ■ columbiaunionvisitor.com
visitor@columbiaunion.net ■ To subscribe, change address or discontinue *Visitor* mailings, call your local conference, as listed below. Ask for the membership clerk. Free to members. All others, \$18 annually. Email sjones@columbiaunion.net.

PUBLISHING BOARD ■ Dave Weigley (chair), Celeste Ryan Blyden (secretary), Jorge Agüero, Emmanuel Asiedu, Tim Bailey, Marvin C. Brown III, Bob Cundiff, Henry J. Fordham III, Gary Gibbs, Jerry Lutz, Rick Remmers, Charles A. Tapp



Columbia Union
Conference

OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

5427 Twin Knolls Road, Columbia, MD 21045
(410) 997-3414 ■ columbiaunion.org

Dave Weigley ■ President

Rick Remmers ■ Executive Secretary

Emmanuel Asiedu ■ Treasurer

Tabita Martinez ■ Undertreasurer

Celeste Ryan Blyden ■ Vice Pres., Strategic Communication

Frank Bondurant ■ Vice President, Ministries Development

Lisa Saveikis Burrow ■ Vice President/General Counsel

Rubén A. Ramos ■ Vice President, Multilingual Ministries

Donovan Ross ■ Vice President, Education

H. Candace Nurse ■ Secretary/Treasurer, Revolving Fund

Curtis Boore ■ Director, Plant Services

Harold Greene ■ Director, Information Technology Services

CONFERENCES

ALLEGHENY EAST: Henry J. Fordham III, President; LaTasha Hewitt, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (610) 326-4610 ■ visitaec.com

ALLEGHENY WEST: Marvin C. Brown III, President; Benia Jennings, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (614) 252-5271 ■ awconf.org

CHESAPEAKE: Jerry Lutz, President; Evan Knott, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (410) 995-1910 ■ ccsda.org

MOUNTAIN VIEW: Tim Bailey, President; Valerie Morikone, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (304) 422-4581 ■ mtviewconf.org

NEW JERSEY: Jorge Agüero, President; Anthony Baffi, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (609) 392-7131 ■ njcsda.org

OHIO: Bob Cundiff, President; Kasper Houghton Jr., *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (740) 397-4665 ■ ohioadventist.org

PENNSYLVANIA: Gary Gibbs, President; Tamyra Horst, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (610) 374-8331 ■ paconference.org

POTOMAC: Charles A. Tapp, President; Debra Anderson, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (540) 886-0771 ■ pcsda.org

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

KETTERING COLLEGE: Nate Brandstater, President; Lauren Brooks, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (937) 395-8601 ■ kc.edu

WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY: Weymouth Spence, President; Richard Castillo, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (301) 891-4000 ■ wau.edu

HEALTHCARE NETWORKS

ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE: Terry Forde, President & CEO; Costin Jordache, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (301) 315-3030 ■ adventisthealthcare.com

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE: Fred Manchur, CEO; Christina Keresoma, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (937) 395-8167 ■ ketteringhealth.org

Printed at Pacific Press® Publishing Association in Nampa, Idaho.

Adventist® and Seventh-day Adventist® are the registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®.

Volume 126 ■ Issue 4

23

The number of Columbia Union Pathfinder Bible Experience teams that placed first at the virtual 2021 North American Division event

There is a shift from thinking that the church is the building to now seeing ourselves as more externally focused and going beyond the walls. ... I truly believe that God has positioned the church—that is you and me—for such a time as this in order that we might recapture the purpose for which we were called: to be the salt and light to a world that is in desperate need of hope.

—Charles A. Tapp, the newly elected Potomac Conference president, speaking at the conference’s Impact 2021 virtual camp meeting



TIM BAILEY JOINS MOUNTAIN VIEW TEAM

This spring, the Mountain View Conference Executive Committee voted Tim Bailey as president. Since 2015, Bailey has served as ministerial director and evangelism coordinator for

the Pennsylvania Conference.

“It feels good to be coming home,” shares Bailey, who began his pastoral ministry in 1987 at the Wheeling and Weirton district in West Virginia.

Bailey replaces Mike Hewitt, who accepted a call to serve as vice president of administration for the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

5 Things You Should Know (columbiaunionvisitor.com/5Things)

- 1** At the first 2021–2026 Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee meeting, members approved an amendment that would allow a virtual meeting option for future General Conference (GC) sessions. The amendment will be considered for approval at a special in-person GC Session January 18, 2022, with 400 delegates, including three representing the Columbia Union.
- 2** In June, the Office of Education announced its 2020–21 Columbia Union Conference Outstanding Educator Awards. The recipients were nominated by their conference superintendents, associates and local principals.
- 3** Several churches across the union have been a part of the effort to distribute COVID-19 vaccines to reduce the pandemic’s impact. Among them, volunteers at Chesapeake Conference’s Washington-Spencerville Korean church helped administer more than 700 doses.
- 4** Washington Adventist University recently hosted its 2021 Constituency Session—its first session to be held virtually. Most of the reports shared can be found in the *Gateway to Service—Pillars of Excellence* digital quinquennial booklet.
- 5** On behalf of the Office of Education, local administrators presented Columbia Union academy graduates with Caring Heart Awards for their dedication to service and witnessing.

UNION ANNOUNCES ‘RELENTLESS’ CAMPOREE DATE



In August, registration opens for “Relentless,” the 2022 Columbia Union Conference Pathfinder Camporee, August 10–14, at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia. The facility boasts more than 10,000 acres to explore. Attendees will be able to fish, hike, mountain bike, zip line, scale a climbing wall, kayak, white water raft and more.

“We want our Pathfinders to know that God’s love for them is stubborn, unyielding and unchanging. ... He is fully committed to loving us with His relentless and unfailing love,” says Frank Bondurant, Columbia Union vice president for Ministries Development, whose team will oversee the event. Find out more at cucamporee.com.

UpFront



13,000 BIBLES, 100,000 STEPS TO CHRIST DISTRIBUTED

Pastors and Hispanic Ministries coordinators recently gathered at the Columbia Union Conference headquarters in Columbia, Md., to pray over and take home (in total) more than 13,600 Bibles and 100,000 *Steps to Christ* in English and Spanish.

To motivate members to engage in witnessing, Rubén A. Ramos, vice president for Multilingual Ministries, says, “The minimum that we can do, besides offering motivation and training, is to give them the elements to share the good

news—the Bible, Bible lessons and *Steps to Christ*.”

Ramos’ office coordinated the initiative, and thanks to a subsidization from the Food for Life company, Hispanic churches around the union also purchased 27,000 Bible lessons from Pacific Press Publishing Association (Idaho) at a very low price.

“Our small groups [across the union] will have the elements to share the good news and get a lot of people involved in studying the Bible. [We hope] a lot of baptisms will follow,” adds Ramos. “You cannot imagine the impact of these materials in the hands of people. It’s impossible

VICTOR THE VISITOR MOUSE IS TALKING TO HIS FRIENDS ON ZOOM. CAN YOU GUESS WHICH BIBLE STORY THEY ARE FROM?

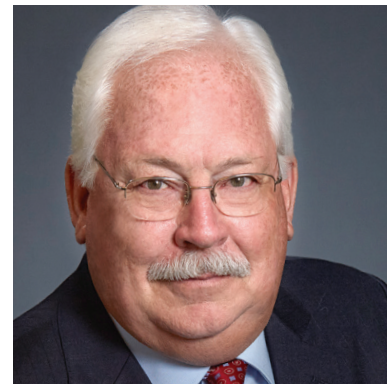


THE REST OF THE STORY: Read full content at columbiaunionvisitor.com/upfront.

to even comprehend what the Lord can do. If the Lord can do a miracle with only one book, can you imagine [what can happen] with the books that we distributed today?”

ROB VANDEMAN, FORMER UNION EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, PASSES AWAY

Robert T. Vandeman, an administrator and ordained minister who served the Seventh-day Adventist Church for nearly 50 years, passed away April 23, after a yearlong battle with cancer. He was 71.



Vandeman came to the Columbia Union Conference in 1983 as senior pastor of Chesapeake Conference’s Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md. After 12 years there, he joined the conference leadership team, where he also served as ministerial director, communication director, executive secretary and eventually president. Following 27 years in Chesapeake, he joined the Columbia Union leadership team in 2011 as executive secretary.

Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president, says, “Rob was a champion for the grace of Christ and the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.”

Family and friends held a memorial service for Vandeman May 22 at the Spencerville church. Watch the service at spencervillechurch.org/news.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIANA WILLETT

LA UNIÓN ORGANIZA CONGRESO DE CONSTITUYENTES

La Unión de Columbia organizó recientemente su 28° congreso quinquenal constituyente.



Debido a las medidas de distanciamiento social, la reunión de dos días se realizó de manera virtual. “Comparte la Palabra”, el tema de la reunión, se relacionó con el énfasis de un año de la Unión de Columbia en la Biblia y se centró en las formas en que la unión inspiró a los miembros a estudiar, vivir y compartir la Palabra de Dios. El programa del sábado por la noche presentó historias de cada una de las ocho conferencias de la unión, así como videos, testimonios y entrevistas en vivo con presidentes de conferencias, pastores y miembros de iglesias que han encontrado formas creativas de hacer crecer sus iglesias y llegar a sus comunidades, algunas con el apoyo financiero de la unión.

Los delegados reeligieron al presidente Dave Weigley (en la foto al centro con su esposa, Becky), al secretario ejecutivo Rick Remmers (a la derecha con

FOTOS POR BRIAN PATRICK TAGALOG



5 Cosas Que Debes Saber

(columbiaunionvisitor.com/noticias5cosas)

1 En agosto, se abre la inscripción para “Incansable”, el Camporee de Conquistadores de la Unión de Columbia, que será del 10 al 14 de agosto del 2022, en la Reserva Summit Bechtel en West Virginia. La instalación alberga el Jamboree Nacional de los Scouts y cuenta con más de 10,000 acres para explorar. Los asistentes podrán pescar, caminar, andar en bicicleta de montaña, usar la tirolesa, escalar muros, andar en kayak, balsa de aguas rápidas y más. Obtenga más información en cucamporee.com.

2 Esta primavera, el Comité Ejecutivo de la Conferencia de Mountain View eligió a Tim Bailey como el nuevo presidente de la conferencia. Desde el 2015, Bailey se ha desempeñado como director ministerial y coordinador de evangelización de la Conferencia de Pensilvania.

Bailey reemplaza a Mike Hewitt, quien aceptó un llamado para servir como vicepresidente administrativo de la Conferencia de Kentucky-Tennessee.

3 Durante el Tercer Congreso Quinquenal Constituyente de la Conferencia de Potomac, celebrada a través de Zoom en marzo, los delegados votaron como presidente de la conferencia a Charles A. Tapp, antiguo pastor principal de la iglesia de Sligo de la Conferencia de Potomac en Takoma Park, Maryland.

Cuando Bill Miller, presidente de la conferencia durante casi 15 años, se alejó de su cargo, expresó su gratitud a los constituyentes en su informe presidencial, diciendo: “Gracias a todos ustedes por los muchos años exitosos de traer almas preciosas al reino y el trabajo en el crecimiento de iglesias sanas y que hacen discipulos”.

4 Pastores y coordinadores de los Ministerios Hispanos se reunieron recientemente en la sede de la Unión de Columbia en Columbia, Maryland, para orar y llevarse a casa más de 13,600 Biblias y 100,000 El Camino a Cristo en inglés y en español.

5 Robert T. Vandeman, un administrador y ministro ordenado que sirvió en la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día durante casi 50 años, falleció el 23 de abril, después de una batalla de un año contra el cáncer. Tenía 71 años. Vandeman llegó a la Unión de Columbia en 1983 como pastor principal de la iglesia de Spencerville de la Conferencia de Chesapeake en Silver Spring, Maryland. Después de 12 años allí, se unió al equipo de liderazgo de la conferencia, donde también se desempeñó como director ministerial, director de comunicaciones, secretario ejecutivo y presidente. Después de 27 años en Chesapeake, se unió al equipo de liderazgo de la Unión de Columbia en el 2011 como secretario ejecutivo.

su esposa, Shayne) y al tesorero Emmanuel Asiedu (en la foto con su esposa, Annette) para el período 2021-2026.

Los delegados también reeligieron a los vicepresidentes Celeste Ryan Blyden, Rubén A. Ramos, Frank Bondurant y Donovan Ross, y eligieron a Lisa Saveikis Burrow (en la foto extrema derecha) para

reemplazar a Walter Carson, quien se retiró a fines de mayo después de 15 años de servicio a la unión. Los delegados también vieron informes en video de los dirigentes de la unión y las entidades educativas y de salud. Vea estos informes en video y toda la reunión en columbiaunionvisitor.com/sessionvideo.

Nouvelles

V. MICHELLE BERNARD

ASSEMBLÉE DES DÉLÉGUÉS DE L'UNION

L'Union de Fédérations de Columbia a récemment organisé sa 28e Assemblée quinquennale de délégués. En raison des mesures de distanciation sociale, cette réunion de deux jours s'est tenue virtuellement. « Partagez la Parole » est le thème de la réunion, lié à l'accent mis toute l'année par l'Union de Columbia sur la Bible et axé sur les façons dont l'Union a inspiré les membres à étudier, vivre et partager la Parole de Dieu. Le programme du samedi soir a présenté des histoires de chacune des huit fédérations de l'union, ainsi que des vidéos, des témoignages et des entretiens en direct avec des présidents de fédérations, des pasteurs et des membres d'église qui ont trouvé des moyens créatifs de développer leurs églises et d'atteindre leurs communautés, certains avec le soutien financier de l'Union.

Les délégués ont réélu le Président Dave Weigley, le Secrétaire Exécutif Rick Remmers et le Trésorier Emmanuel Asiedu pour un mandat allant de 2021 à 2026 (photo ci-dessous).

Les délégués ont également reconduit les vice-présidents : Celeste Ryan Blyden, Rubén A. Ramos, Frank Bondurant et Donovan Ross, et ont élu



5 Choses à Savoir

(columbiaunionvisitor.com/nouvelles5choses)

1 En août, les inscriptions s'ouvrent pour « Relentless », Le Camporée des Éclaireurs 2022 (2022 Pathfinder Camporee) de l'Union de fédérations de Columbia, du 10 au 14 août, au Summit Bechtel Reserve en Virginie-Occidentale. Ce local abrite le National Jamboree Scout et dispose plus de 10 000 acres de terre à explorer. Les participants pourront pêcher, faire de la randonnée, du vélo de montagne, de la tyrolienne, de l'escalade de mur, du kayak (embarcation de sport), du radeau d'eau vive et plus. Pour en savoir plus, visitez cucamporee.com.

2 Ce printemps, le Comité Exécutif de la Fédération Mountain View a voté Tim Bailey en tant que nouveau président de la fédération. Depuis 2015, Bailey joue le rôle de directeur ministériel et coordonnateur évangélique de la Fédération de Pennsylvanie.

Pasteur Bailey remplace Mike Hewitt, qui a accepté un appel au poste de vice-président de la fédération Kentucky-Tennessee.

3 Au cours de la troisième réunion quinquennale de l'Assemblée de délégués de la Fédération Potomac, tenue via Zoom en mars, les délégués ont voté Charles A. Tapp, pasteur titulaire de longue date de l'Église Sligo de la Fédération de Potomac à Takoma Park, Maryland, en tant que président de fédération.

Alors que Bill Miller, président de la fédération pendant près de 15 ans, laisse son poste, il a exprimé sa gratitude aux électeurs dans son rapport présidentiel, en disant : « Merci à vous tous pour les nombreuses années couronnées de succès en amenant des âmes précieuses dans le royaume et pour le travail consistant à faire grandir des églises saines et faisant des disciples. »

4 Des pasteurs et coordonnateurs ministériels hispaniques se sont récemment réunis au siège de l'Union de Columbia, à Columbia, dans le Maryland, pour prier et ramener à la maison plus de 13 600 Bibles et 100 000 exemplaires de Vers Jésus en anglais et en espagnol.

5 Robert T. Vandeman, un administrateur et un pasteur consacré qui a servi l'Église Adventiste du Septième pendant près de 50 ans, est décédé le 23 avril 2021, après une bataille d'un an avec le cancer. Il avait 71 ans.

Pasteur Vandeman est venu à l'Union Columbia en 1983 en tant que pasteur titulaire de l'Église Spencerville de la Fédération de Chesapeake à Silver Spring, Maryland. Après 12 ans là-bas, il a rejoint la direction de la fédération, où il a également exercé les fonctions de directeur ministériel, directeur de communication, secrétaire exécutif et président. Après 27 ans à Chesapeake, il a rejoint l'administration de l'Union de Columbia en 2011 en tant que secrétaire exécutif.

Lisa Saveikis Burrow pour remplacer Walter Carson, qui a pris sa retraite fin mai après 15 ans de service à l'union. Les délégués ont également regardé des reportages vidéo

des dirigeants de l'union et des entités éducatives et sanitaires. Regardez ces reportages vidéo et l'intégralité de la réunion sur columbiaunionvisitor.com/sessionvideo.

PHOTO PAR BRIAN PATRICK TAGALOG



Sligo by the Sea

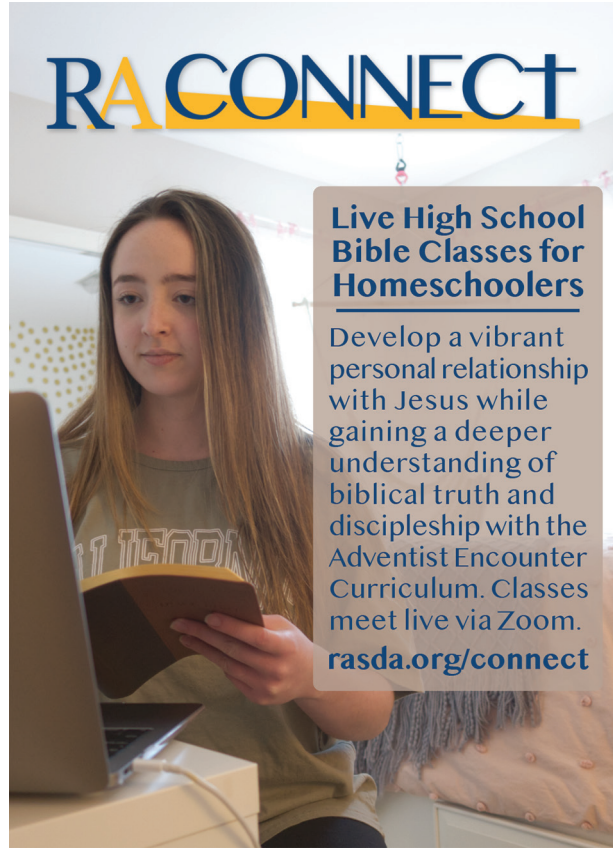
2021 WORSHIP SERIES

First Presbyterian Church
1301 Philadelphia Avenue, Ocean City, MD 21842

SABBATH SCHOOL 10 A.M. | WORSHIP 11 A.M.

JULY 7/3	Pastor Charles Tapp
7/10	Pastor Rick Remmers
7/17	Pastor Mark Sigue
7/24	Pastor Dave Weigley
7/31	Pastor Bonita J. Shields
AUGUST 8/7	Pastor Therezinha Barbalho
8/14	Pastors Pranitha & Kelan Fielder
8/21	Pastor Dan Pabon
8/28	Pastor Stephen Chavez
SEPTEMBER 9/4	Pastor Gerald A. Klingbeil
9/11	Pastor Nathan Krause
9/18	Pastor Anthony Kent

sligochurch.org/sligobythesea 301-270-6777



RACONNECT

Live High School Bible Classes for Homeschoolers

Develop a vibrant personal relationship with Jesus while gaining a deeper understanding of biblical truth and discipleship with the Adventist Encounter Curriculum. Classes meet live via Zoom.

rasda.org/connect

WORTHINGTON | PLANT POWERED™

MEATLESS MEAT MADE SIMPLY SINCE 1939!



WANT A COUPON?

Get \$1 OFF in-store on any (2) Deli Slice packs (August)!
Check out our **NEW** Facebook Page for additional promotions!
fb.com/eatWORTHINGTON.official/

TEAM WORTHINGTON®
Join our brand ambassador team for a chance to earn food and prizes!
eatWORTHINGTON.earth

CHECK YOUR SDA GROCERS FOR IN-STORE PROMOTIONS ALL MONTH LONG!

SHARE YOUR SANDWICH & GET FEATURED!

EATWORTHINGTON
@EAT.WORTHINGTON
EATWORTHINGTON

A TIME OF PRAISE & CELEBRATION

At the 28th Columbia Union Conference Constituency, delegates celebrated ministry and strongly affirmed leaders through re-election.

On May 22–23, the Columbia Union Conference hosted its 28th quinquennial constituency meeting. Due to the pandemic and social distancing measures, the two-day meeting was held virtually.

“Share the Word,” the theme for the meeting, tied into the union’s emphasis on the Year of the Bible and focused on ways the union inspired members to study, live and share God’s Word.

The opening program on Saturday evening featured stories of impactful evangelism from each of the union’s eight conferences, including Allegheny East Conference’s Capitol Hill Counseling and Resource Center in Washington, D.C.; Mountain View Conference’s Parkersburg Adventist Academy; and Project Somebody, a program run by Allegheny West Conference’s Southeast church in Cleveland that helps youth at an area correctional facility re-enter society.



Conference Beltsville church’s DC campus; and Juliana Marson, a volunteer lay pastor and church planter at New Jersey Conference’s Grace Place church in Lakewood.

Marson shared how she was led to quit her job and start the group that recently became an official church with more than 60 members. She is also planting a second church in the vicinity. “If God is calling you to plant a church or calling you for service ... may your response be to go. If He calls you, He will equip you,” she said.

Blyden, who produced the program with members of her team, says, “We often hear about the wonderful work happening in other parts of the world, but this was an opportunity to highlight the wonderful



During this 75-minute “Praise and Celebration” program, delegates from across the union watched video stories, testimonies and live interviews with conference presidents, pastors, educators and church members who have found creative ways to grow their ministries and reach their communities, some with funding support from the union.

Program hosts Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president, and Celeste Ryan Blyden, the union’s vice president for Strategic Communication (pictured, above), spotlighted guests in person and via Zoom, including Roxanna Juarez (pictured top, on the right, with her sister Joanna), a recent graduate from Pennsylvania Conference’s Blue Mountain Academy; Joanne Cortes, pastor of the Potomac



Juliana Marson, a volunteer lay pastor and church planter at New Jersey Conference’s Grace Place church in Lakewood, highlights the way God is working through their ministry.

ways members and leaders across the Columbia Union are experiencing the mission and making an impact right here in our communities.”

Jessica Manantan, a member of Mountain View Conference’s Grafton church in West Virginia, who was elected at the session to serve on the Columbia Union Executive Committee for the next five years, was impressed by the church plant projects and appreciated the focus on authentic relationship building from several of the interviewees. She said she hopes more churches will prioritize training members to reach their local communities.

Blyden reports that the virtual session featured 24 videos, highlighting additional examples of how God is working through members, leaders and ministries.

“It came as no surprise that, due to the pandemic, the meeting had to be convened via Zoom and livestream. Nonetheless, this online format did not prevent us from receiving amazing reports of God’s blessings over the last five years throughout the union,” says Andre Hastick, executive secretary for the Chesapeake Conference and secretary of the meeting’s organizing committee. “I was inspired to see the frontline ministries happening in our



Via Zoom, Gary Gibbs, president of the Pennsylvania Conference, presents the nominating committee report during the union’s first virtual constituency meeting.

churches, schools and other outreach organizations, and was filled with appreciation for the supportive leadership team serving our union.”

To produce the unprecedented event, staff and delegates used upwards of 200 cameras, said Nick Wolfer, studio production manager at the North American Division (NAD) Headquarters in Columbia, Md., where the event was hosted and produced.

He explains that four cameras were used in NAD’s auditorium where the stage was located, and that each meeting delegate attended virtually with a camera. Staff also used eight computers for the large



“The greatest tool that we have is the tool that Jesus talked about most—making friends,” said Darlene Molina, a teacher at Mountain View Conference’s Parkersburg Academy, in a video report about the revival of the school. View the entire meeting, including reports, interviews, videos and meeting coverage, at columbiaunionvisitor.com/sessionvideo.

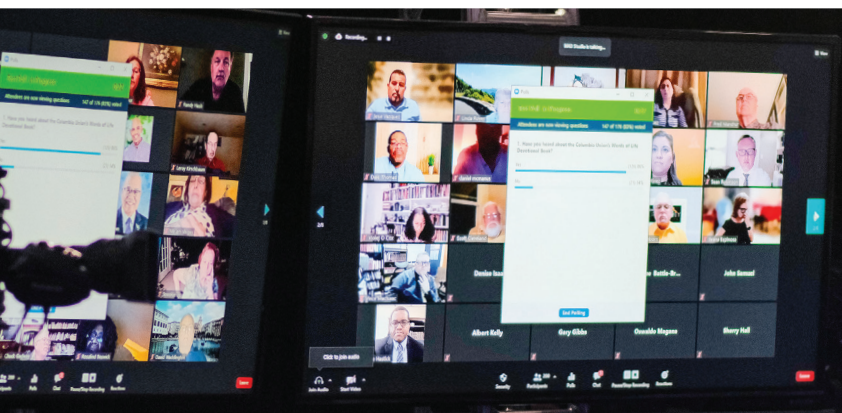
Walter Carson Retires

During Sunday’s meeting, leaders honored Walter Carson for his service to the church. After 53 years practicing law, including 44 years representing the Seventh-day Adventist Church—15 of those with the Columbia Union—Carson, vice president and general counsel, retired at the end of May. During his career, he represented various government agencies and worked in private practice, but found the greatest sense of purpose in working for the church, a role that allowed him the opportunity to successfully argue a case in front of the U.S. Supreme Court.

“My wife would tell you that the best years of the 44 years that I spent with the church were those years that I spent at the Columbia Union,” says Carson.



The Columbia Union executive leadership team honors Walter Carson during the 28th constituency meeting.



gallery view in front of the stage, two studio interfacing computers, seven graphics computers and six Zoom management computers.

Columbia Union staff and Kermit Netteburg, event manager, worked behind the scenes to ensure the virtual program ran smoothly.

Following the opening devotional program and President Weigley's video report, the quorum of delegates voted to re-elect him to serve for a record-setting fourth term. Weigley was first elected in 2006 and is now the second-longest serving president in the Columbia Union.

Rick Remmers was also re-elected as the union's executive secretary, a position he has held since January. Emmanuel Asiedu, union treasurer since 2018, was also re-elected.

"I want to thank the team that stands with me. It's a wonderful team, and we're privileged to serve you," remarked Weigley (pictured above, center, with his wife, Becky), standing with Remmers (left, with Shayne) and Asiedu (right, with Annette).

'SHARE THE WORD'

On Sunday morning, G. Alexander Bryant, NAD president (pictured, right), delivered a devotional message encouraging delegates and viewers watching the livestreamed event on social media to witness to those around them. "In this time of a pandemic, racial unrest and upheaval, if ever there was a time to

share the Word of God, it is now," he said.

Following the message, delegates re-elected vice presidents (pictured above, left to right) Celeste Ryan Blyden, Strategic Communication; Rubén A. Ramos, Multilingual Ministries; Frank Bondurant, Ministries Development; and Donovan Ross, Education. They also elected Lisa Saveikis Burrow (right) as vice president and general counsel. She replaces Walter Carson, who retired at the end of May.

Burrow, who was assistant to the general counsel since 2019, previously served as associate general counsel at the General Conference for 17 years.

"I have seen God at work in this process, and I do believe He has answered prayers and has led me here, so I am ready to serve," says Burrow.

FUTURE VIRTUAL MEETINGS APPROVED

Delegates approved a number of recommended changes proposed by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Remmers, who chaired the committee, says there were no substantive changes to the bylaws, only changes for clarity. One exception was the bylaw that would allow the union to hold virtual meetings again in the future, if need be. Delegates approved this addition without hesitation.

Delegates also voted to receive Remmers' secretariat and Asiedu's treasury video reports, as well as the auditor's "clean opinion" assessment. Presidents



PHOTOS BY BRIAN PATRICK TAGALOG

Right: Weymouth Spence, president of Washington Adventist University, outlines the pillars of excellence that drive the university: quality, people, finance, service, growth and community. Opposite page: Delegates vote on agenda items using an electronic voting system.

of the union’s education, health care and media ministries—Adventist HealthCare, Kettering Health, Washington Adventist University and WGTS 91.9—introduced and presented their video reports.

Weigley ended the meeting calling leaders to live out Micah 6:8, and members to be faithful servants, as is mentioned in Matthew 24. “Jesus said



we can’t do anything by bread alone. We need the Word of God,” he said. “Let’s step up and be that faithful servant, each in our own way—running small groups and planting churches, for example. This is how we live and embrace the great call, to go forth and express our gifts and love for Jesus Christ—hastening His coming.”

WATCH ANYTIME

View the entire meeting, including reports, interviews, videos and meeting coverage, at columbiaunionvisitor.com/sessionvideo.

2021-2026 Executive Committee Elected

Dave Weigley, *Chair*
Rick Remmers, *Vice-Chair*
Emmanuel Asiedu

Institutions

Terry Forde, *Adventist HealthCare*
Fred Manchur, *Kettering Health*
Weymouth Spence, *Washington Adventist University*

Allegheny East Conference

Henry J. Fordham III, *President*
Ronald Williams, *Pastor*
Gina Brown
Cheryl Chavers
Jane Lee
Jennifer Merino
Jose Velasquez

Allegheny West Conference

Marvin C. Brown III, *President*
Max Gomez, *Pastor*
Dewain Hall
Elethia Dean

Chesapeake Conference

Jerry Lutz, *President*
Shawn Paris, *Pastor*
Denise Isaac
Celinda Bauer

Mountain View Conference

Tim Bailey, *President*
Heroes Sical, *Pastor*
Jessica Manantan

New Jersey Conference

Jorge Agüero, *President*
Eduardo Monteiro, *Pastor*
Juliana Marson
Reina Zapata
Raymond Emond

Ohio Conference

Bob Cundiff, *President*
Yuliyán Filipov, *Pastor*
Michael Sanborn
Vimbai Mazani

Pennsylvania Conference

Gary Gibbs, *President*
Shawn Shives, *Pastor*
David Richmond
Wayne Johns

Potomac Conference

Charles A. Tapp, *President*
Paolo Esposito, *Pastor*
Karen Burke
Byron Barnes
Lena Daniel
Michael Gentry
Juan Carlos Rodriguez

K-16

Donovan Ross
Cynthia Poole

English | Spanish | Portuguese | French | Tagalog | Afrikaans | Ukrainian | Russian | Bahasa | Mongolian | Tamil
Telugu | Hindi | Marathi | Malayalam | Bengali | Mizo | Bhojpuri | Santali | Cebuano | Nepali | And Many More!

ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO PRESENTS:

UNLOCKING BIBLE PROPHECIES

INTERNATIONAL

MASTER CLASS with CAMI OETMAN

Adventist World Radio's *Unlocking Bible Prophecies* series has returned, and is now available in dozens of languages!

Share this life-changing series with family and friends around the world and encourage them to sign up for AWR's free Bible studies.

Join Cami Oetman for this thrilling master class in Bible prophecy!



Watch
Online
Now!

awr.org/bible



Adventist World Radio 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Let's Connect! [f awr360](https://www.facebook.com/awr360) | [i awr360](https://www.instagram.com/awr360) | [y awr360](https://www.youtube.com/awr360) | awr.org/videos | awr.org

ALLEGHENY EAST *Exposé*

Capitol Hill Shifts Outreach to Meet Pandemic Needs

Prior to the pandemic, the Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C., had planned to serve their community through “Acts of Kindness” days. The activities shifted due to COVID-19, however, and their focus changed to meet the needs of first responders.

Church members visited neighborhood fire and police stations, prayed with staff and surprised them with breakfast, inspirational books and gift cards.

As part of the “Acts of Kindness” series, members also beautified the community garden at the Dupont Park Adventist School and created a sewing circle where individuals, such as Rose Stansberry (pictured), made masks to donate to seniors or others in need.

Capitol Hill also donated sandwiches to the So Others Might Eat organization, which provides food to homeless people. Members continued to partner with several nonprofit food delivery organizations like Food and Friends, which delivers food to individuals with terminal illnesses or chronic diseases. Many of the food distribution projects allowed members to be socially distant by donating



funds online or assembling boxes at home.

“The success of our program is due to the dedication of our [community service] team who keeps a pulse on what our community needs and shares ways in which we can help,” says Karen Hayes, Adventist Community Services director for Capitol Hill.

SALT Provides Food for Underprivileged Families

When Claudia Wheeler (pictured with volunteer Tatiana Smith), a member of the University Heights church in Somerset, N.J., looked at the number of families in need of healthy meals in contrast with the amount of food wasted by restaurants and stores, she decided to start the SALT foundation in 2017.

SALT restocks items weekly for neighborhood



community fridges, food pantries, homeless shelters and soup kitchens. The foundation collects and distributes more than 3,500 pounds of food per week to serve about 500 families and individuals. They work with community programs, centers and churches to run food distribution events and partnerships.

“I named the foundation SALT, derived from Matthew 5:13 ... preserving families and communities, which will, in turn, enhance the flavor of life in the world,” says Wheeler.

Even though SALT is a nonprofit organization, they were not able to qualify for a Paycheck Protection Program loan that assists businesses and nonprofits during the pandemic.

“There are three immediate needs the foundation has: a refrigerated van to transport fresh food properly; an industrial refrigerator and freezer for food storage; and general donations to help cover car maintenance, gas and tolls,” says Wheeler. “Also, volunteers are welcome to assist with food distribution events and to help pick up and sort food.”

To learn more, visit thesaltfoundationinc.org.

Conference Hosts Second Virtual Communication Event

Allegheny East Conference's (AEC) Communication Department recently hosted its sixth annual Connection and Ministry Conference (CAMCON), held virtually for the second year in a row. The theme, "Hands-on the Future," was designed to give online attendees tools to improve or shift their communication ministry to become relevant in a pandemic-impacted world. Over the three-day conference, approximately 70 attendees joined via Zoom, including pastors, communication leaders and other church leaders.

The first session began with a presentation from Celeste Blyden Ryan, vice president for Strategic Communication for the Columbia Union Conference, on when and how to write a statement when a crisis occurs. Next, attendees learned the process of producing virtual groups and choirs by presenter Horane Henry, a project management professional and technology ministry leader.

Featured presenter Kirk Nugent, an innovator, leader, speaker and YouTuber, shared each day on topics such as "Transition Requiring Identification" and "Defining Ministry in a Digital Age." During his final session, he conducted a studio show-and-tell, sharing the equipment he used to create his home studio, from lighting to cameras.

In addition, Jennifer Gray Woods, associate general counsel for the General Conference, shared reminders on copyright considerations for the digital space. Michael Escalante, a cyber security expert, shared an eye-opening presentation on how to keep children safe online. Bryant Taylor, pastor of worship



and media at the Azure Hills church (Calif.), challenged attendees to use technology to help spread the gospel.

On the final day, George O'Bryant, owner of Call Go Tech, shared the importance of networking your home and church to meet your ministry needs.

The conference culminated with the annual CAMCON Award Ceremony, where churches were recognized for excellence in categories such as livestream, non-church stream, video production, social media presence and church website.

This year, event organizers introduced a "shark-tank" style award for small churches. Candidates created 60-second videos describing how they would use \$250 to enhance their current communication ministry. Visit visitaec.org/camcon to view the presentations and winners.

Trinity Temple Academy Hosts Vaccination Clinic



New Jersey area clergy recently partnered with the Hackensack-Meridian Medical Center (N.J.) to host a pop-up COVID-19 vaccination clinic at Trinity Temple Academy in Hillside, N.J.

With only a two-day window to reach out to their community and schedule appointments, they created flyers to promote the event around the school, which is attached to the Trinity Temple church. They successfully vaccinated more than 160 people.

"Since the event, there has been a number of calls from people asking when we can do this again," says Norman Miles, pastor of Trinity Temple and New Jersey area clergy leader.

Chance Meeting Benefits Recovery Ministry at Westside

Three years ago, leadership at the Westside church in Cleveland challenged themselves to reexamine God's purpose for their church and how they could more effectively share the gospel with others. To that end, they embarked on a journey of spiritual rediscovery, beginning with fasting and prayer to ask God for a revelation of His purpose for the church.

"We believe that the events that followed were God's way of answering our prayers," says Maurice Belle, pastor of Westside. "One Sabbath morning, a visitor walked into our church. Her name was Ruth Rittenbach. She was an out-of-town guest visiting from the Walla Walla City (Wash.) church and was staying just across town. She said that she heard the Lord say *go to church*. Her GPS identified several Seventh-day Adventist churches in the area, and she decided to visit Westside.

"Little did we know that God would answer both her prayers and ours that day," says Belle. "That Sabbath, I spoke on the topic of God showing up in the fullness of time. After the worship service, we invited Ruth to join us for fellowship and lunch. We talked about what we had asked the Lord to do for us. We spoke about the power of recovery and how



Ruth and Tracey Rittenbach, sponsors/accountability partners for Adventist Recovery Ministries, share the gospel through addiction recovery.

I believed that God showed us that our mission and identity are in the mission of recovery.

"As we talked, she watched community members line the fellowship hall for a hot meal. I could tell that the church's focus on recovery moved her. Ruth later shared that she could not stop thinking about the sermon, and, upon seeing the people, she now understood why God had sent her to Westside."

Both Ruth and her husband, Tracey, are sponsors/accountability partners for Adventist Recovery Ministries (ARM). During the Sabbath conversation, Ruth revealed that they had recently received a double order of ARM outreach materials and were happy to donate them to Westside.

"This was a more surprising answer to prayer than we could have ever imagined," says Belle. "I genuinely believe that the Lord sent them to bless us with the recovery materials. Ruth later acknowledged that it must have been the Lord that led her to purchase the double order, intending it for Westside's mission."

The Westside church recently launched its first week of ARM meetings, using the donated materials. They will use the sessions to launch a three-week evangelistic campaign later this year. Westside has also partnered with several community organizations that share in their mission of sharing the gospel through addiction recovery, feeding the hungry and caring for homeless people.



Olietunja Mann (left) and Maurice Belle, Westside church elder and pastor, respectively, lead an Adventist Recovery Ministries program.



Shiloh Members Serve Their Community

The global pandemic has brought about many negative consequences. It has affected the job sector, closed schools and created distance among neighbors. But where circumstances bring despair, there is opportunity for joy. And, according to Bryant Smith, pastor of the Shiloh Cincinnati church, “There is no greater joy than in service.”

Shiloh church members recently collaborated with surrounding churches, ministries and other civic-minded organizations in hosting a community service event. As part of the “Serve Avondale” community project, more than 150 volunteers assembled at four locations. Their mission was to show love to their neighbors in practical ways by praying, cleaning and beautifying neglected areas due to the lack of funding caused by COVID-19.

“We wanted to demonstrate the love of Jesus to the Avondale community. We can see how God transforms individuals, families and the whole community by bringing His kingdom reality to earth as it is in heaven!” says Chuck Peckham, president of Compassionate Justice and a fellow participant in the Serve Avondale project.

Shiloh’s assignment was a local school that they had assisted in the past. Smith presented a devotional and prayed over the volunteers. Other



members registered volunteers, helped clear debris from the school’s playground, cleaned up trash and talked with neighbors.

Student volunteers from the University of Cincinnati were on hand to provide lunch for everyone. “I believe that everyone felt a great spirit of unity and goodwill toward our neighbors. Our time in the community was a great opportunity to share God’s love and be among His people. I firmly believe that people don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care,” says Smith.

Ephesus Members Enjoy Sabbath Walks in the Park

Earlier this year, the Health Ministries Department of the Ephesus church in Columbus, Ohio, began “Sabbath Walks in the Park.” Members meet every other week in the city’s parks to get some exercise, explore nature and bond with each other in a safe environment.



“Columbus has multiple great parks,” says Health Ministries director Paul Monk (pictured with members Evelyn Fordham-Goodman and Kaelyn Goodman). “I thought this would be a good activity in light of COVID-19 with the need to be safe and compliant with local guidelines, but also for fellowship.”

Given that Columbus has 20 metro parks that span more than 28,000 acres and 230 miles of trails, Ephesus members have plenty of area to cover as they continue their walks into the summer and fall.

Each morning and evening, Ephesus members have also been reading and discussing the book *40 Days: Prayers and Devotions to Revive Your Experience with God* by Dennis Smith. On Sabbaths, the group participates via Zoom in the evening prayer meeting, led by Keith Goodman, pastor of Ephesus.

Ephesus members agree that worshipping God in the natural environment has turned out to be a truly powerful experience.—Angela Wimberly

Spirit is published in the *Visitor* by the Allegheny West Conference ■ 1080 Kingsmill Parkway, Columbus, OH 43229
Phone: (614) 252-5271 ■ awconf.org ■ President, Marvin C. Brown III ■ Editor, Benia Jennings



CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE CURRENTS

Prayerful Perseverance

Perseverance is a noun defined as: “persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success.” If you’re anything like me, you’ve made many plans for your future, only to find out that life is full of unexpected twists and turns. It’s been over a year now that we’ve collectively navigated one of the most unexpected curve balls to date: the global coronavirus pandemic. When the unexpected happens, our once energized life sprint can downgrade to a cautious walk and conclude with merely standing still. And sometimes, depending upon the nature of the setback, it can even feel like we’re going backward, with no hope of a turnaround in sight.

Paul brings into focus that the Christian journey requires endurance, even in spite of our circumstances: “And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith (Heb. 12:1–2, NIV). Prayerful perseverance is the fuel that will propel us from where we are to where the Lord is calling us to be. The current issues we face suddenly become opportunities to build our faith when entrusted to the Lord. Barriers to our plans contain an often-overlooked blessing, as it can bring us back to our knees to seek help from the only One who is able. When we pray, the One who grants us faith sees us through to the finish line.

There are times, however, when we’re tempted to stew about in frustration instead of surrendering our situation—and yes, even our feelings—at the feet of Jesus in prayer. In my experience, whatever someone chooses to focus on will become larger and more significant in their mind and heart. Therefore, the counsel of Scripture found in Hebrews 12 is deeply valuable and will save us from unnecessary strife. If we just look to Jesus, He will become bigger and more powerful than any challenge we face along the way.

This world is not our home, and the finish line of faith is closer now than it has ever been. With faithful, prayerful perseverance, let us run toward the grace of Jesus and the imperishable crown of glory He has set before us.



Andre Hastick
Executive Secretary

Chesapeake’s ACS Receives Pandemic Response Award



For their response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Chesapeake Conference’s Adventist Community Services (ACS) received the 2020 Maryland Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) Award. Leaders from the Maryland VOAD presented the award to Chesapeake’s ACS during this year’s annual meeting.

“Thank you, ACS volunteers, ACS local coordinators, Chesapeake pastors and local church boards,” says Ignacio Goya, ACS director for Chesapeake. “Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus.”

In March 2020, many food pantries closed because of the pandemic, creating a major need in many communities. Chesapeake’s ACS immediately began to fill the void by expanding from nine food pantries prior to the pandemic to 31 food pantries that are still operating today.

In the past year, they served more than 140,000 families and have distributed more than \$12 million worth of personal protective equipment supplies.

“This award should motivate us to continue serving in moments of crisis and in moments of blue skies,” says Goya. “We have an opportunity to build connections in our neighborhoods, so let us keep going, and God will bless. Our goal is that many will see our love and be drawn to Jesus.”

Woman Finds Childhood Church Online, Gets Baptized

Nicole Johnson was approximately 12 years old when she last attended church. But when the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020, she felt a strong urge to reconnect with her childhood church.

“When the world pushed pause, I realized something was missing,” Johnson says. “It was my relationship with God and knowing that I wasn’t completely living life to His plan.”

The problem, however, was that churches in Delaware were closed due to a state of emergency order in response to the pandemic. Unable to attend church in person, Johnson decided to search online to see if the Dover First (Del.) church where she occasionally attended as a child was broadcasting services online. She discovered that, indeed, Dover First was streaming services on Facebook.

“I was drawn to Dover First’s online services because I always loved [the services] as a child,” says Johnson. “I stayed because of how great the sermons were and the lessons I was able to learn each Sabbath.”

Johnson continued to watch Dover First’s services on Facebook throughout the summer, even after the church resumed limited, socially distanced indoor worship services in June. However, after months of remaining an anonymous online viewer, she realized that God was calling her to come out of her comfort zone and take another step. “God does not want us to live in isolation,” she says. “I felt the Holy Spirit’s pull and knew that God had big plans in store for me.”

Johnson contacted Dover First in August 2020 through the church’s website, stating that she felt impressed to accept Jesus as her Savior and join a community of believers. The church replied and invited her to begin taking weekly Bible studies through Zoom and attend church the next Sabbath.

“My first impressions of the church were great! I remember being greeted at the front door. I was immediately welcomed and offered a quarterly Bible study plan. It was awesome!” she says.

Johnson worked through the It Is Written Bible study lessons each week during a virtual Bible study appointment via Zoom. After completing the 25 lessons and asking many questions, she made the decision to be baptized into the church she had attended as a child decades earlier.

“I enjoy my church family so much!” Johnson says. “From bonfires to lunches and great sermons, I would say the fellowship has been incredibly impactful. My church family is the best!”

Johnson understands her spiritual journey is only getting started and that baptism isn’t the end of



“When the world pushed pause, I realized something was missing,” says Nicole Johnson, pictured smiling prior to her baptism.

the road. “The most rewarding part of this journey is knowing that I am not doing it alone,” she says. “I have Jesus who is always with me; He guides me and understands me. He is my best friend, and His grace is sufficient. I take comfort in knowing that this earth is not my home.”



PHOTO BY MELVIN DONADELLE

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

Tim Bailey Elected Conference President

“It feels good to be coming home,” shares Tim Bailey, who began his pastoral ministry in the Mountain View Conference (MVC) in 1987, where he pastored the Wheeling and Weirton churches in West Virginia. Bailey recently accepted the call to become the 40th president of the MVC, a position left vacant after former president Mike Hewitt accepted a call to the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

Bailey obtained his Master of Divinity degree from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary (Mich.) in 1990 and continued at Andrews University with post-graduate studies in evangelism and church growth. He went on to pastor the Romney and Franklin churches in MVC and helped establish the Moorefield (W.Va.) church plant. Since 2015, Bailey has been serving as ministerial director and evangelism coordinator for the Pennsylvania Conference. And now, after 33 years, he is back home.

“Although I grew up in a solid Seventh-day Adventist home,” Bailey reminisces, “I began a deeper relationship with Jesus at 18 and have been working for God’s church ever since—as a colporteur, evangelist, pastor and administrator.”

Bailey continues, “One of my greatest passions is working with people to grow and revitalize God’s churches. I love the challenge of bringing corporate change to an organization to incorporate ‘Total Member Involvement’ and interpersonal connection.”

During Bailey’s time at the Pennsylvania Conference, there was wonderful growth through evangelism. The Faith for Family initiative, spearheaded by Bailey, is a conference-wide volunteer mission project, encouraging and enlisting more



Tim Bailey and his wife, Liz, enjoy outdoor activities, especially fishing.



Tim Bailey is the new president of Mountain View Conference.

members to be engaged in sharing their faith and utilizing their gifts and talents in ministry. Conference leaders also equip churches to be more intentional in reaching souls for Christ by providing resources and training. This program has yielded incredible member participation, increasing the number of evangelistic meetings held in a cycle of evangelism and doubling annual baptisms.

Bailey is married to Elizabeth (Liz), a registered nurse, and they have two adult children: Sarah, a speech pathologist, and Joshua, a landscape architect, who is married to Veronica. “Our family is and has been the center of our lives,” says Bailey.

Growing up, Bailey often traveled to Thornton, W.Va., where his parents, Robert and Kitty (Robinson) Bailey, were born and raised. Bailey recalls the many visits to Thornton to fish and gather ramps and morel mushrooms. Still today, his favorite hobbies include outdoor activities, especially fishing.

“I wish to extend a warm welcome to Elder Tim Bailey and his wife, Liz, as he takes on the role of conference president,” says Victor Zill, MVC secretary/treasurer. “I look forward to working with Tim to advance the mission God has given His church and disciples.”

Bailey states, “My hope and dream would be to spend these next years of my ministry journey sharing the gospel to the entire territory of the Mountain View Conference, growing the present attendance in our churches and increasing the availability of Adventism to everyone in this conference.”

Mountaintop Meets Needs Inside, Outside of Church

"I am so grateful that the stories of the Bible are not imprisoned in dried ink printed on thinly sliced trees. Instead, it is bursting with life and full of lessons that teach us of the power of God," shares Matt Haire, pastor of the Mountaintop church in Oakland, Md., who also pastors the Kingwood and Morgantown churches in West Virginia. "It is our duty to lift the Bible up as the standard of living and to point everyone to the Savior."

Mountaintop spent the better part of 2020 (and still today) growing together as a church family through weekly potlucks, socials, community outreach and corporate Bible study. Members agree that this ministry has awakened them to the times that they are living in, and their desire is to honor the Lord by serving each other and the community.

In the prayer calendar section of Mountaintop's monthly newsletter, members' names are listed. During the week, the church's prayer team partners to pray for each individual. On Wednesday evenings, members read from a chapter in Ellen White's *Conflict of the Ages* series, then spend the remaining time in prayer.

Each second Sabbath, members spend the afternoon studying the history of 1888, with emphasis on the message of righteousness by faith. Every fourth Sabbath, they go door to door in their community, sharing the gospel through literature. As White puts it, "House-to-house labor, searching for souls, hunting for the lost sheep, is the most essential work that can be done" (*Evangelism*, p. 431). Every third Sabbath, the Women's Ministries team



Mountaintop members Keri Haire and Cindy Bakken assemble goodies to share with community service workers.

visits missing members and those who are unable to leave their homes.

Several months ago, elder Kevin Mortenson organized a group to connect and distribute literature to area families. So far, members have visited more than 200 homes, shared more than 200 pieces of literature and prayed with 68 individuals. "As a result, we now have 11 drop-off Bible studies and eight in-home Bible studies," says Haire.

Mountaintop also hosts community events, including a monthly supper club with plant-based and vegetarian dishes and recipes, along with guest speakers from the church or community who speak on nutrition, gardening and fitness.

During the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, members made food boxes for families in need. They also use the holiday season to give back to their community service workers. Last year, they distributed 50 dozen homemade cookies, along with thank-you cards, to 17 community service locations, such as the local fire stations, police, the American Legion, the volunteer fire department, rescue squad stations and the county's winter road crew department.

Haire says, "Mountaintop is taking action to meet the needs inside and outside the church, for 'when we have entire, wholehearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure'" (*Evangelism*, p. 699).



Mountaintop and community members fellowship together over a Thanksgiving meal.

news

NEW JERSEY

I Will Go Plant Churches

Eleven years ago, I traveled down the coast of Costa Rica to Talamanca, a town just southeast of Port Limon. In Talamanca there is a small settlement of Costa Rican aboriginals living in the community of Bribri. While there, I learned of a Seventh-day Adventist member who wanted to start a small group in the town of Suretka, an hour from Bribri.

I went to Suretka to meet José Brown, also known as Piccito. When we sat down, I identified myself as his new pastor. Piccito said, "I would like to see a church in this community." I replied, "Well, let's plant a church!" He looked at me and said, "Pastor, I will go and plant the church with you."

Piccito opened his Bible to Romans 10:14-15 and read: "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!'" (NKJV).

Piccito reiterated, "Paul says 'they are sent.' That is more than one. You and I are the preachers that Suretka needs."

From that conversation 11 years ago, we now have four churches of native Costa Ricans in that area. How did they grow so fast? By a simple principle found in the book of Romans. Piccito instructed every new believer that there was a neighbor who needed help. The first believers in the New Testament were challenged to go in pairs to plant churches (Luke 10:1), and so Piccito and I did.

"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!" God grew good things in Suretka, and He longs to do the same in New Jersey. Will you go plant a church? Invite someone to join you today.



Mario Thorp
Executive Secretary

Yo Iré Plantando Iglesias

Hace once años, viajé por la costa de Costa Rica hasta Talamanca, un pueblo al sureste de Puerto Limón. En Talamanca hay un pequeño asentamiento de aborígenes costarricenses que viven en la comunidad de Bribri. Mientras estaba allí, me enteré de un miembro de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día que quería comenzar un pequeño grupo en la ciudad de Suretka, a una hora de Bribri.

Fui a Suretka para encontrarme con José Brown, también conocido como Piccito. Cuando nos sentamos, me identifiqué como su nuevo pastor. Piccito dijo: "Me gustaría ver una iglesia en esta comunidad". Le respondí: "¡Bien, plantemos una iglesia!" Me miró y dijo: "Pastor, yo iré y plantaré la iglesia con usted".

Piccito abrió su Biblia en Romanos 10:14-15 y leyó: ¿Cómo, pues, invocarán a aquel en el cual no han creído? ¿Y cómo creerán en aquel de quien no han oído? ¿Y cómo oirán sin haber quien les predique? ¿Y cómo predicarán si no fueren enviados? Como está escrito: ¡Cuán hermosos son los pies de los que anuncian la paz, de los que anuncian buenas nuevas!" (RVR 1960).

Piccito reiteró, "Pablo dice 'si no fueren enviados'. Eso es más de uno. Tú y yo somos los predicadores que Suretka necesita".

De esa conversación hace 11 años, ahora tenemos cuatro iglesias de nativos costarricenses en esa área. ¿Cómo crecieron tan rápido? Por un principio simple que se encuentra en el libro de Romanos. Piccito instruyó a cada nuevo creyente que había un vecino que necesitaba ayuda. Pero ...

- ¿Cómo podían sus vecinos invocar a Aquel en quien no habían creído?
- ¿Cómo podían creer en Aquel de quien no habían oído?
- ¿Cómo podrían escuchar sin nosotros haber hablado con ellos?
- ¿Cómo escucharían el evangelio a menos que se enviara a alguien?

Los primeros creyentes en el Nuevo Testamento fueron desafiados a ir en parejas a plantar iglesias (Lucas 10:1), y así lo hicimos Piccito y yo.

"¡Cuán hermosos son los pies de los que anuncian la paz, de los que anuncian buenas nuevas!" Dios hizo crecer cosas buenas en Suretka y anhela hacer lo mismo en Nueva Jersey. ¿Irás a plantar una iglesia? Invite a alguien a unirse a usted hoy.
—Mario Thorp

Luso-Brazilian Inaugurates Community Center L.I.F.E.

New Jersey Conference (NJC) officials recently inaugurated the first NJC center of influence on the premises of the Luso-Brazilian church in Newark, N.J. (pictured).

Pablo Cisneros, pastor of Luso-Brazilian, along with local church members, attended the event. Also present were New Jersey Conference administrators Jorge Aguero, president; Mario Thorp, executive secretary; and Karen Senecal, treasurer, as well as Ligia de Freitas, the city's deputy mayor, and other community authorities.

The center of influence identifies itself as the "Community Center L.I.F.E." The acronym "L.I.F.E." sums up the essence of the project: "Life Is For Everyone."

Immigrants who live in Newark face many challenges daily. One of the center's goals is to help stimulate entrepreneurship so that they gain a sense of belongingness, learn new trades and acquire an extra source of income. The center also plans to actively and intentionally contribute to the community by offering services, lectures and courses. Overall, the



center aims to build a better life, community, city and country, without losing sight of our heavenly home.

"Life takes on a very special meaning when there is a willingness to reach out and help those who need it most," says Cisneros. "Yes, with absolute certainty, life is happier when you give instead of receiving."

Youth Department Launches Instagram Church

In 2019, God began putting the pieces together to begin a new ministry in the New Jersey Conference to target older teens and young adults.

"The Hub NJ" began with the idea of providing a new worship experience. The first event, launched in January 2020 by the conference's Youth Department, took place in the middle of a snowstorm where about 200 young people came together to experience a fresh and contemporary way of worshipping.

While planning for the third event, the pandemic hit. Unfortunately, this put the experience on hold.

Not knowing what to do next, ministry leaders Hugo Flores (pictured left, top, with guest) and Anthony Baffi

launched The Hub NJ on Instagram—a social media platform whose demographics are millennials and Gen Z, people who are sometimes left in the shadows of the local church. In mid-April 2020, The Hub NJ streamed its first church service on Instagram Live with worship, testimony time, music and a sermon, all in under an hour.

The Hub NJ has not missed a Sabbath since its inception, as people from across the United States and even overseas watch or participate in the live services.

"This demonstrates that we do not need a building to plant a church or to begin a ministry. All we need are willing hearts," says Flores.

To be a part of this growing family, follow The Hub NJ on Instagram @thehubnj.



Scan code to read articles from New Jersey News (and other news) in Spanish.

Ministry Does Not Stop

As we look back at March 2020, our hearts rejoice for how God has continued to bless ministry throughout the territory.

It was clear that we did not know what the COVID-19 pandemic meant for our future, but we knew it could be devastating for our members, churches and conference. We are convinced today that it was God who took control of our steps and the lives of our department heads as we began responding to the challenging times under our rallying cry: “Though our churches may close, #MinistryDoesNotStop.”

When the pandemic hit, our team jumped into action immediately, supporting and encouraging a transition to local digital ministries. Treasury provided each pastor a Zoom account so they could keep close contact with their members, livestream interactive services and continue nourishing their congregations. Our Media Department began weekly Zoom meetings with pastors, providing tech support, training sessions and facilitating idea sharing across districts. We also worked strategically with our pastors to involve all our constituents in the use of online giving—seeing a majority of members using the service within a few weeks.

Today, our praises ascend to God for the outstanding work, dedication and extra hours each one of our pastors and local church leaders gave in care of God’s church. With the Lord’s guidance, the outstanding work of each leader and the steadfastness of all our members, we ended the year with 383 souls brought to the feet of Jesus, and we are blessed to reinvest a 7.76 percent tithe increase back into future ministry.

May God continue to challenge us because *ministry does not stop!*



Oswaldo Magaña
Executive Secretary

Cincinnati Pastor Experiences Ministry Milestone

God has been working through the ministry of Pastor Ashton McFall during his 13 years of service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. As a result, church members, family and Ohio Conference administration prayerfully gathered to ordain him into gospel ministry at a recent ceremony.



McFall (pictured center with his wife, Sonovia) received a Bachelor of Arts in Religion from Northern Caribbean University (Jamaica), a Master of Divinity from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary (Mich.) and has previously ministered in both the South and North Bahamas conferences. McFall currently pastors the Village and Hamlet churches in Mason and Amelia, respectively.

When asked about the guiding philosophy driving his life, McFall says, “God is everything to everyone in every situation.”

During the service, Bob Cundiff, Ohio Conference president, laid this charge to McFall: “You have had the hands of ordination laid upon you at a most significant time in earth’s history. This [Seventh-day Adventist] Church that grants credentials upon you calls you to preach a Christ-centered message. Your ministry is more than a vocation or a career—it is a calling; it is a commitment; and it is a life.”

The Ohio Conference leadership team congratulates McFall, his wife, Sonovia, and their children, Ashli, Stephen and Seth on this milestone.

Mansfield Robotics Team Becomes Two-Time Champions

Students from the Mansfield Seventh-day Adventist School have done it again! Participating virtually against 17 schools from across the country, the Mansfield Calves of Steel recently won the overall first place championship in the Adventist Robotics League. This marks the second year in a row of winning this title.

The Adventist Robotics League is a STEM project-based learning program that encourages students in grades 4–8 to combine creative problem solving and thinking, using their love of LEGO® bricks. This league is a part of the FIRST LEGO League Challenge that holds regular events throughout the school year.

The eight-member Mansfield Calves of Steel team wowed judges by completing a timed robot obstacle course challenge, as well as presenting a STEM project proposing an app-based gamified fitness watch experience, designed to get kids to put down their screens and get moving.

The Ohio Conference leadership team celebrates the Mansfield Calves of Steel achievements and would also like to recognize and congratulate all students and teachers who continually engage new STEM frontiers!

As Mansfield sixth-grader David Clayburn puts it, “It’s more about having fun and cooperating with your teammates and being happy for others instead of only being happy when you win something.”



The Mansfield Calves of Steel robotics team, (back row, left to right) Alyvia, Samantha, Mikey, Cameron, Huck, (front row) Xander, Makayla and David, celebrate their Adventist Robotics League championship.

Watch the Calves of Steel LEGO robotics challenge and STEM presentation by scanning the QR code.



Young Adults Gather for ‘Immersion’ Into Revelation

The Ohio Conference Youth Department recently held its annual Immersion: Young Adult Retreat. A group of 35 young adults from across the state gathered at Camp Mohaven in Danville for a weekend together in nature.

Edward Marton, youth director, describes the Immersion event as “an opportunity for young adults to come together to dive deep into God’s Word

while socializing and fellowshiping together.”

This year’s focus was on the book of Revelation. Kojo Twumasi, pastor of the Clifton church in Cincinnati, shared an introduction into the book of Revelation on Friday evening. On Sabbath morning, Cesar Leon, Ohio Conference intern, led out in a study of the seven churches, followed by Marton, who set up the context for a group study on Revelation 4 and 5.

During the weekend, the group also enjoyed many nature activities at Camp Mohaven, including hiking, canoeing and kayaking.

To wrap up the weekend, Bob Cundiff, Ohio Conference president, shared an uplifting message about heaven, based on Revelation 21 and 22.

“This was a weekend of immersion in the hope of the gospel for our young adults!” says Marton.



Pennsylvania Pen

Together for Our Kids

Seventh-day Adventists have long valued the concept of educating our young people to be the army of youth empowered to hasten the second coming of Jesus. From the earliest years of our church's history, we have understood the importance of opening schools to educate our children for service in proclaiming the gospel message.

As our current world situation is unfolding, the Pennsylvania Conference has sensed an urgency that we focus on mission—"Reaching Everyone, Everywhere"—by spreading the gospel of Jesus across our state. One of the conference's eight strategic initiatives is "Together for Our Kids," recognizing the importance of sharing the gospel with our children and those families in our communities through Adventist education. The global pandemic and the challenges that are confronting education have only intensified our desire to creatively connect more families and children to Adventist education.

Do you have a child? Know a child? Want to support a child? Join us in supporting Adventist education by visiting paconference.org/education. Thank you for praying with us as we continue to build and grow a K-12 system approach that enables our students to grow in their relationship with Jesus and leads them to use their gifts and abilities to serve others as we look forward to being together with our kids when Jesus comes.



Leona Bange
*Superintendent of
Education*

Students Study Science Together Via Zoom

COVID-19 has created new routines, challenging circumstances and creative teaching. Education in Pennsylvania has been vaulted to a new level with special technology like 360-degree cameras that interface with Zoom, online academic activities and hybrid combinations of in-person and virtual learning—all combined with teachers and students who

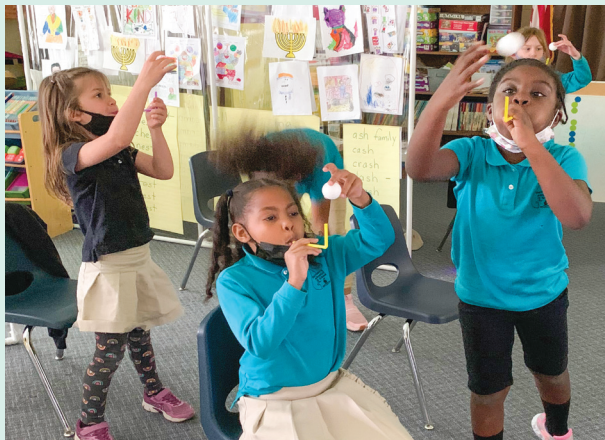
are determined to pursue excellence. Many fall and Christmas programs, and even the conference's Music Fest, utilized a virtual format, allowing parents and friends to watch from a distance.

With this year's Education Fair canceled, Leona Bange, superintendent of education, scheduled Science Day instead, a program that was both virtual and hands-on. Each classroom received kits of materials and active lessons on physics, math, friction, air pressure and chemistry. Via Zoom, they joined scientist Doug Scheer from Scheer Genius Assembly Shows to learn and do experiments. More than 300 students participated and interacted with other classrooms across Pennsylvania.

"It was fun. He did experiments that weren't too hard, and everyone could do them," reports a student from Blue Mountain Elementary in Hamburg.

"I learned that chemicals can melt solids sometimes," shares a student from Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy (HVCA) in Warminster.

Lori Kavistan, HVCA fifth- and sixth-grade teacher, reflects, "It was really fun to watch students enjoy learning and growing in the scientific field. I especially enjoyed that my students weren't just watching science happening, they were participating in their learning and sharing their curiosity with their classmates!"



Kindergarteners and first-graders at the Harrisburg Adventist School blow air through straws to hover their ping pong balls.

Leaders Break Ground for Conference Headquarters

Representatives from Conewago Construction, Tilden Township, Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) and the Columbia Union Conference recently joined Pennsylvania Conference members and staff for the groundbreaking ceremony of the new conference office—the Mission and Evangelism Headquarters.

The facility, which repurposes a building on the campus of BMA, will be equipped to allow the conference to powerfully advance God’s mission in Pennsylvania. It will also be home to the CORE evangelism training school for young adults and provide space for training and meetings for pastors, teachers, committees and members.

“God has called His last-day people to reach everyone, everywhere with the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ,” shares Gary Gibbs, conference president. “As members of the Pennsylvania Conference, He has assigned us this corner of earth as our mission field. The harvest of souls Jesus will reap at His return will, in a large part, be influenced by our attention to the mission God has entrusted to our care. This new facility will enable us to provide training and



Leaders and officials break ground for the conference’s new Mission and Evangelism Headquarters on the campus of Blue Mountain Academy.

create resources which will better equip us to finish the work and share the good news of Jesus Christ and His soon return.”

The new office building, voted overwhelmingly by constituents at the October 2020 constituency session, is scheduled to open later this fall.

Life’s a journey, full of dreams.
Have the best start in the best place!

BLUE MOUNTAIN ACADEMY

Enroll **TODAY** www.bma.us
484 662 7004 - enroll@bma.us
HIGH SCHOOL - HAMBURG, PENNSYLVANIA USA

SCAN ME

Pennsylvania Pen is published in the *Visitor* by the Pennsylvania Conference ■ 720 Museum Road, Reading, PA 19611
Phone: (610) 374-8331, ext. 210 ■ paconference.org ■ President, Gary Gibbs ■ Communication Director, Tamyra Horst



PotomacPeople

*growing healthy,
disciple-making churches*

Beyond the Walls: We've Only Just Begun

For nearly a year-and-a-half, our world, and, yes, our church, has been on a journey that even the wildest of imaginations could not have imagined. The onslaught of this global pandemic has wreaked such havoc in our lives that it has almost removed the word “normal” from our vocabularies. But despite the great sense of unimaginable loss that the COVID-19 virus has brought upon us, in many ways it has allowed the church to recapture its mission of becoming “salt and light” to a world that is in desperate need of both.

Yes, most of the doors to our churches have had to close during this time, but in closing our doors, the pandemic has caused a shift in our focus from being content to remain “behind the walls” in a service to going “beyond the walls” in giving service. In many ways, it has saved us from being a church that was on the verge of being “canceled” to becoming a vibrant force for change.

It is reminiscent of what Ellen G. White said in *Ministry of Healing*, page 143: “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’”

And what is so exciting about this new shift in our focus is that I believe, “we have only just begun!”



Charles A. Tapp
President

Camp Meeting Continues To Be ‘Re-Imagined’

Several years ago, the long-standing annual camp meeting event shifted directions to reach a greater number of people in a more relevant way. The event became Impact: Camp Meeting Re-Imagined, where pastors and laity worked together on a rotating schedule to tailor an event to the needs of their local region. During the pandemic, this very event continued to undergo new waves of re-imagining to stay relevant.

More than a year after the onslaught of COVID-19, churches and conferences have continued to cope with the effects of the pandemic. While state and local governments have loosened crowd restrictions, the conference administration decided to continue erring on the side of caution, and, once again, held camp meeting virtually.

This two-day event featured an hour-long concert on Friday evening from Christian recording artist Steve Green and a powerful message on Sabbath morning from Charles A. Tapp, conference president. With the theme, “Beyond the Walls: We’ve Only Just Begun,” the event focused on the true mission of the church.

“We are to reach beyond the partitions of the building and be salt and light to those in need,”

explains Debra Anderson, assistant to the president for communication. “We are to feed the hungry, house the homeless and help those who cannot help themselves. As Christians, that is what we’re called to do. By God’s grace, we will embrace this mission. Whether in person or virtual, camp meeting is always a blessing. Next year, however, we hope to once again have an in-person gathering with all Potomac constituents.”



Five Pastors Ordained to Gospel Ministry

The Potomac Conference recently celebrated a busy season of ordinations. Since the beginning of the year, five pastors have been ordained to the gospel ministry: Cheryl Wilson-Bridges, Isaac Hanna, Carlo Duran, Jesse Nascimento and Chris Cheatham.

Wilson-Bridges serves as Sligo church's associate pastor for music and worship in Takoma Park, Md. Hanna, district pastor for Culpeper, Orange and Stafford churches in Virginia, as well as associate pastor for the Fredericksburg (Va.) church, emigrated to the United States from Egypt five years ago. Duran oversees the Bealeton, Culpeper, Reston and Sterling Spanish churches in Virginia. Additionally, Duran and his wife, Carolina, produce and air a children's online program called TheolKids. Nascimento, originally from Brazil, serves as the pastor of the Richmond Brazilian Community and Petersburg churches and the Living Word Mission group, all located in Virginia. Cheatham pastors the Pennsylvania Avenue church in Capitol Heights, Md.

"Each time there is an ordination of one of our pastors here in the Potomac Conference, it serves as a powerful reminder of the call that God has placed on each of their lives," says Charles A. Tapp, president. "Not only upon the pastor, but the people that the pastor has been called to serve as well. It is reminiscent of the call that came to Moses from the burning bush—a call to follow God's leading in their lives, along with the promise to His people that the 'I Am' will be with them every step of the way."

Rick Labate, vice president for Pastoral Ministries, remarks on the incredible blessing of having so many pastors accept God's call into ministry: "These pastors are a shining example of what can happen when men and women respond to what God has asked them to do with their lives," he says. "The diversity of pastors in Potomac, especially as represented by these ordinations, is something we absolutely love and delight in. We look forward to the day when the other 25 pastoral interns in our conference will be ordained as well."



Clockwise: Pastors Isaac Hanna (Heba), Chris Cheatham (Amberdawn), Carlo Duran (Carolina Villamizar), Cheryl Wilson-Bridges (Conrad) and Jesse Nascimento (Leila) are ordained to the gospel ministry.



THE BMA EXPERIENCE

BLUE MOUNTAIN ACADEMY

Blue Mountain Academy Alumnus Races for Eternity

Forty years ago this September, Jim Slater, then a freshman at Blue Mountain Academy (BMA), broke his neck, became paralyzed, stopped breathing and almost died.

“It is an outright miracle from God that I am alive today,” Slater shares. “And because of my gratitude to God for what He did for me, I am dedicating my race this September as a way to raise funds to help other students attend BMA to help them connect with God for all of eternity.”

Slater’s race, the Ironman Chattanooga, is comprised of more than 144.6 miles of swimming, biking and running in Chattanooga, Tenn. Slater’s goal is to raise \$200,000, providing up to \$5,000 of financial aid for 40 students to attend BMA. “This would be one additional student at BMA for every additional year of life that God has given to me,” says Slater.

“And while the impact on our personal finances by donating to this campaign is only temporary, the positive spiritual impact on these students’ lives can be forever.”

Slater graduated from BMA in 1985, going on to Andrews University (Mich.), graduating with a double major in Business Administration and Communications. He and his wife, Sarah, live in Grand Haven, Mich., and have five adult children who live all over the country.

Slater says he keeps God at the center of everything he does—from his epic adventures to his professional life to his hobbies. He wants to help provide young people with the BMA experience that will equip them to live a life with God at the center too.

Visit bma.us/race-for-eternity to learn more.

“And while the impact on our personal finances by donating to this campaign is only temporary, the positive spiritual impact on these students’ lives can be forever.”

Jim Slater



@race4eternity



www.bma.us/race-for-eternity



\$200,000 FOR 40 STUDENTS
CONNECTING STUDENTS TO GOD

1985 High school graduation



1981 Wearing halo with broken neck



1985 Spring of senior year



Former Principal Honored at Alumni Weekend



During Alumni Weekend 2021, Highland View Academy (HVA) renamed their gymnasium in honor of Harvey J. Byram, principal from 1980–1987, who worked tirelessly to build up the HVA campus and begin the varsity athletic programs at the school.

Byram raised money to build the library and science wing of the classroom building, the E & I Barr building that houses the cafeteria and music departments, and the DeHaan Hall and Hartle Hall dormitories.

Through his leadership, Byram began the varsity team sports programs for basketball, soccer and volleyball at HVA. He understood the importance of team building, getting along with different types of people and the character building that occurs through varsity sports.

The construction of the physical facilities, in addition to increasing health programs, impacted the more than 200 students who flocked to HVA in the mid-1980s for their Seventh-day Adventist Christian education. Before his passing, former teacher Charles Myers shared that, during the summer, each teacher was handed a list of about 20 future student names to contact and help the administration to recruit for the school. This, along with enhancing Campus Ministries, music, math and science programs (later named STEM) helped increase enthusiasm for an Adventist high school education.

Byram's legacy will continue to influence the campus, as students play Tartan varsity sports, join the HVA Aerials gymnastic team and participate in other campus programs that educate them

spiritually, mentally, physically and socially.

Follow the HVA Aerials on Instagram at @hva_aerials or view their most recent YouTube video at youtube.com/watch?v=aGpGaTnrfCM. For more information about Adventist education offered at HVA, visit highlandviewacademy.com.





the LEGACY

OUR JOURNEY

A PUBLICATION OF LAKE NELSON ADVENTIST ACADEMY

My Definition of Spirit Week

If someone were to ask me what my definition of Spirit Week was, I would say “unity.” For this year’s Spirit Week at Lake Nelson Adventist Academy (LNAA), students and staff united to participate in spiritual, physical and brain games. The school was divided into two teams—team gold and team blue. Teachers selected students randomly to play games and earn points for their teams.

Led by the high schoolers, the older students made sure the younger lower grade students had a good time. Kindergartener Jael Valesquez says, “I love spirit week. I love the games.”

The week began with brain games like building words using your body or playing games like Family Feud. As each team went head-to-head, the students who were not participating at the time were hyping and cheering their team on to get the most points available for that selected game. The rivalry is not only about the games themselves, but which team can be the loudest and make their squad look the strongest.

Next were the physical games, like soccer, flag football, basketball and the most anticipated game—volleyball. Students were sweating and hustling to gain points for their team. The crowd was supportive and attentive to see which team would win these sports and activities.

Sophomore David Velez states, “The physical games and sports are really what keeps me on my feet watching as the different teams play, waiting to



Drum team members Samantha Flores ('22), Brenda Moris ('22), Lauson Noel ('23), Alonso Tencio Montero ('23) and Gabriel Valez ('22) perform during Spirit Week.

see who wins. I try to keep my team [energized].”

The students also had fun playing games with a spiritual emphasis. The younger students played a Bible verse search game called sword drill, and the older students played Bible trivia—both groups demonstrating their biblical knowledge.

Each day the students left with a positive and happy mindset so they could be ready for the next day. The goal was to make sure everyone had a good time. And as the week went on, the students appeared to be more and more ready to play. The students who were shy on the first day of Spirit Week were now screaming and eager to participate in every competition available.

Velez adds, “I made sure everyone [on my team] kept their heads up and did their best, and, whether they won or lost, that they had a smile on their face.”

Junior Samantha Flores, the Student Association social events coordinator, says, “I believe that Spirit Week was an experience where the school could come together to express our love for Lake Nelson.”

“Unity” is truly my definition of Spirit Week. When LNAA comes together like this, I think of it as more than just a school, but a family. All in all, this year I had an amazing experience during Spirit Week, and, as a new student on campus, I felt so loved and welcomed. I’m sure others felt the same. Together, the students and staff had a big part in making Spirit Week unite us.—Gabriel Valez ('22)



Rod Olofernes ('22) prepares grades 1–3 students to participate in a soccer match.

The Legacy is published in the Visitor by the Lake Nelson Academy ■ 555 South Randolphville Rd., Piscataway, NJ 08854
Phone: (732) 981-0626 ■ Fax: (732) 981-0770 ■ lakenelsonacademy.org ■ Principal, Elisa Maragoto ■ Editor, Ashley Boggess

PFA POST



Visit us online at PINEFORGEACADEMY.ORG. Excellence is no accident.

Academy Celebrates 75 Years at Founders' Day Ceremony

In honor of its 75th anniversary, Pine Forge Academy (PFA) held its first virtual Founders' Day Awards Ceremony earlier this year. The celebration honored the vision and leadership of the founding pioneers, faculty, staff, administration, students and alumni, who sought to make Christian education safe and accessible for African-American students.

In 1945, John H. Wagner, Sr., newly elected Allegheny Conference president, resurrected J. L. Moran's original idea to begin a Seventh-day Adventist boarding school in the north. The conference purchased a 575-acre piece of rural land outside of Pottstown, Pa., with a down payment contribution from Grace Kimbrough, a member of the Ebenezer church in Philadelphia.

After its purchase in December 1945, the conference made aggressive plans for a school year to begin in September 1946. Immediately, the slogan, "Heed the call: A school by Fall!" rang throughout the conference, rallying members to raise funds for the opening of Pine Forge Institute, later named Pine Forge Academy. The Allegheny Conference elected Moran to serve as the first principal. In the September 9, 1946, issue of the *Visitor*, Moran reports, "School is now open and filled to capacity with students from California, Wyoming, Indiana, Michigan, Massachusetts, Maine, New York and South Carolina as well as every part of the Allegheny Conference. ... All the young people seem to be happy at Pine Forge."

PFA prospered academically and spiritually. At the



CAROL WAGNER MATTHEWS, '56

Last Living Child of Pine Forge Institute Founder,
Elder John Wagner Sr.



end of the first year, 10 of the original 90 students had been baptized, and more than 500 people gathered for the first commencement service to witness six graduates receive their diplomas.

One of these students, Marguerite Anderson Dixon ('47), was the first graduate and valedictorian. Eric Adams, Jr., ('05), recording secretary-elect for the National Pine Forge Academy Alumni Association (NPFAAA), interviewed Dixon (pictured left with Adams) as part of the Founders' Day Awards Ceremony. Both Dixon and Marion E. Brantley ('47) were honored as "Our Living Legends."

Other honorees received the Medallion of Merit, including Kris Fielder, vice principal, for 35 years of dedicated service to the academy; Lisa Marshall, women's dean, for her years served in Christian education; Kohren Joseph ('10), science teacher, for research contribution to the Health and Safety Task Force for the school's successful reopening in the Fall of 2020 and Carol Wallington ('61), Board of Trustees member and pioneer student of the Pine Forge Adventist Elementary School.

Other awardees included Wayman Wendell Cheatham ('66), two-time NPFAAA president who accepted a posthumous award for his father, William L. Cheatham, former president of Allegheny Conference and the first Allegheny East Conference president; and Carol Wagner Matthews ('56), who accepted a posthumous award for her father, John H. Wagner, Sr.



PFA Post is published in the *Visitor* by the Pine Forge Academy ■ P.O. Box 338, Pine Forge, PA 19548
Phone: (610) 326-5800 ■ Fax: (610) 326-5152 ■ pineforgeacademy.org ■ Principal, H. Clifford Reynolds, III ■ Editor, Tracey Jackson

Spotlight on Spencerville

Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy

LOVE TO LEARN
LIVE TO SERVE
ALL FOR CHRIST

Class of 2021 Honored at Dedication Service

When faced with extremely challenging times, the Class of 2021—the graduating class that survived a whole year of the pandemic—endured by journeying hand in hand with Jesus by their side.

Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) seniors and their families recently attended a special dedication service at Chesapeake Conference’s Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md. This ceremony recognized the seniors for their hard work and determination, as Senior Pastor Chad Stuart shared a heartfelt message and prayer of dedication for them. At the end of his prayer, Stuart invited parents to lay hands on their senior and pray together as a family.



Seniors DMarco Arteaga, Nathan Dabney and Cheyenne Hyde are happy to see each other during the special dedication.



Andrew Potts stands as the audience recognizes the entire Class of 2021.



“It was a beautiful service for our seniors. There was something special [about] dedicating them at this time of year because graduation is just around the corner,” says parent Rachel Fuentes. “Praying for our children is one of the most important things we can do as parents. The dedication service gave us that.”

Seeing that this year has been a year of isolation for many students, being together with other classmates and their families made for a very special occasion. Senior Heather Hernandez says, “Senior dedication was a wonderful opportunity to interact with my classmates. It felt good to be recognized and appreciated.”

Head Principal Tissiana Bowerman remarks, “This year has been challenging for everyone, and we’ve seen the impact it has had on our senior class. Gathering in prayer collectively and as individual families during our senior dedication was deeply touching. I am so proud of our students for holding onto Jesus when things get tough.”

The Bergmann family pray over their senior daughter, Selene, during the dedication service.

PHOTOS BY TISSIANA BOWERMAN AND MONIQUE HYDE

Spotlight is published in the *Visitor* by Spencerville Adventist Academy ■ 2502 Spencerville Road, Spencerville, MD 20868
Phone: (301) 421-9101 ■ spencervilleacademy.org ■ Head Principal, Tissiana Bowerman ■ Editor, Heidi Wetmore

SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY.ORG

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

Band, Choir Members Experience ‘Spectacular’ Outing

The big screen at Spring Valley Academy’s (SVA) Performing Arts Center flashed sports highlights and dynamic ESPN-style graphics to introduce the theme for the upcoming 2021–22 music season: “SVA Sports Spectacular.”

This theme, a close secret kept by band conductor Donald Huff and choral conductor Cristy Doria, set the agenda for a daylong field trip to Indiana, where band and choir members visited the Hoosier Gym, Lucas Oil Stadium and Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

The ride to Indiana offered an opportunity to screen the 1980s movie classic *Hoosiers*, the story of a small-town basketball team and the coach who led them to victory in the state finals. Based on a true story, the fictional town of Hickory found its gymnasium in the real town of Knightstown, Ind.—the first stop of the day.

Students were led through the gym and its movie memorabilia by expert volunteer guides who brought the film to life in every corner of the building. Students especially enjoyed the opportunity to shoot basketballs on the 1934 vintage hardwood court. Senior basketball enthusiast Eric Grant says, “Not only did we shoot, we played a game.”

Then they visited Lucas Oil Stadium, home of the NFL team Indianapolis Colts. Music students scored an all-access tour from the top of the stadium with its retractable roof down to the AstroTurf playing field.



A tour guide shares the history behind Lucas Oil Stadium.



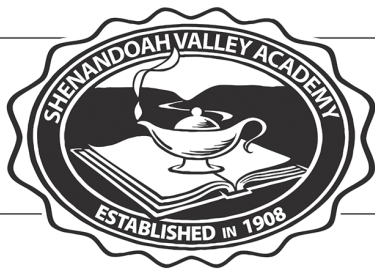
Eighth-graders Mia Cabansag and Emily Sauser explore the Hoosier Gym.

While memorable for the students, it was also memorable for their tour guides; this was one of the first tours that the stadium granted since the pandemic began. The 50-yard line provided a great opportunity for a photo op, as students took in the huge expanse of the pro stadium.

Students were then given the slowest ride on the fastest track—a shuttle bus tour of the famous track at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, complete with a history lesson. An Indy 500 tradition, students had the opportunity to “kiss the bricks” at the strip of the original brick racetrack that constitutes the finish line. For the gearhead, the track’s museum had cars of every color and vintage displayed and the progression of automotive technology from the 1911 Marmon Wasp to the Indy cars of today.

The trip had enough variety that sports fans and nonfans alike enjoyed it. Senior Imani Hughes says, “It wasn’t something that [my friends and I] were first interested in, but it turned out interesting.” Sophomore racing enthusiast Michael Crite sums up the experience: “I’ve never been to a football field when it’s empty; I’ve never been to a historic basketball gym; and I’ve never been to a motor speedway, so it was all really cool for me.”—Lisa Moller

Connections is published in the *Visitor* by Spring Valley Academy ■ 1461 Spring Valley Pike, Centerville, OH 45458
Phone: (937) 433-0790 ■ springvalleyacademy.org ■ Principal, Darren Wilkins ■ Editor, Vicki Swetnam



IMPACT Shenandoah

Serve God – Value Knowledge – Accept a Life of Service

Zirkle Gym Groundbreaking: To God Be the Glory!

Keynote speaker Charles A. Tapp, president of the Potomac Conference and chairman of the Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) Board of Trustees, shares a message (excerpted) at the Zirkle Gymnasium Renovation Groundbreaking Ceremony, May 14, 2021:

Reflecting upon the impact Shenandoah Valley Academy has had and continues to have on the lives of students, these words of Ellen White came to mind: “Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God’s ideal for His children” (*Education*, p. 18).

“Higher than the highest.” If it is already the highest, then what can be “higher than the highest”? The message White desired to convey was limitless possibilities, made clear when she adds, “Before the student there is opened a path of continual progress.” In other words, never-ending possibilities. This is the goal of SVA: to provide students with limitless possibilities. “Higher than the highest.”

The highest she refers to is that of godliness and god-likeness. Yes, we want our students to be proficient in the rigors of education, but the primary goal is to educate them in what it means to be a follower of Christ—to be a disciple. Since 1908, the vision of SVA is threefold: to serve Christ; to value this thing we call knowledge; and to accept a life of service. Again, God is calling us to “higher than the highest.”

This is made possible by the dedication of faculty and staff who are committed to the mission and vision



of providing students with limitless possibilities inside and outside of the classroom. Then there are generous Alumni and Friends whose unwavering financial support make it possible to declare the bold promise—as an institution and as a board—that no qualified student will ever be turned away from our campus because of the lack of finances. And God’s people said ... [Amen]! Again, living up to the ideal “higher than the highest.” I’m not sure any other school in the entire Seventh-day Adventist system can make a claim such as that, that no qualified student will ever be turned away because of their financial situation.

Now the evidence of this support is seen again in the Zirkle Gymnasium Renovation Project that will provide a new entrance and lobby with a reception and concession area, new restrooms and locker rooms and a terrace with a firepit for evening gatherings. It makes you want to come back and be a student again, doesn’t it?

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge that this is the first new building at SVA in 45 years, the most significant funding required for a building project in SVA history. It is the result of the generous contributions of Alumni and Friends—96 percent of gifts from alumni—that the project is fully funded once all gifts and pledges have been received. This means SVA will incur zero debt, which allows us to remain a 100 percent debt-free school. To this I simply say: To God be the glory! “Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God’s ideal for His children.”



Impact Shenandoah is published in the *Visitor* by Shenandoah Valley Academy ■ 234 West Lee Highway, New Market, VA 22844
Phone: (540) 740-3161 ■ shenandoahvalleyacademy.org ■ Principal, Donald Short ■ Editor, Janel Haas Ware

www.ta.edu TATODAY

News you can use from Takoma Academy

Academy Holds First Virtual Alumni Weekend

Alumni weekends are traditionally held annually, face to face and in a familiar environment. Last year was very challenging, however, forcing most people to adapt to new realities. Due to the pandemic, Takoma Academy (TA) wasn't able to host their 2020 Alumni Weekend on campus, celebrating years ending in zero and five. For this year's event, the Alumni Association decided to expand the celebration and honor both last year and this year's honorary alumni, celebrating classes ending in zero, one, five and six.

TA hosted their first virtual alumni reunion on Zoom, YouTube and Facebook. Adopting the theme,



“Let's Listen, Let's Live, Let's Love!”, the program featured several alumni participants ranging from the Class of 1970 to the future Class of 2025. Festivities began with Friday night vespers, led by alumnus Osei Daniels ('95). Daniels (pictured, left), a spiritual advisor for the Virtual

Winning Circle Men's Ministry, discussed the power and importance of listening. Daniels reiterated, “It's important that we learn and understand what listening is about. The power of listening can never be overestimated. We must be professional listeners.”

TA alumnus Pierre Etienne ('05) led Sabbath School the next morning. Etienne (right), an internal medical physician, spoke about the significance of living and how individuals can impact the world. “You are your name, and each name has a powerful and significant meaning,” he said. To elaborate, Etienne told the story of Jacob and the reason why his name was changed to Israel.



Naeem Newman ('91) closed the divine worship service with the sermon, “That's Not Remnant Behavior.” Newman (right), a surgical oncologist at Anne Arundel Medical Center (Md.), discussed the constant battles of race, unity and equity. Newman declared that “loving thy neighbor” plays such a huge role in spreading God's Word. “If we are going to be the evangelists that we are called to be, we have to become neighbors. Meaning, we have to be willing to cross those of different backgrounds.” Spreading the Word of God should not be limited or secluded; we must love everyone, he added.



Patrick Crarey ('70) led out in roll call with his family, an exciting part of the program that acknowledged several honor year alumni. Crarey expresses, “The virtual alumni weekend for TA was an experience that was memorable. Being able to have my whole family present and participate as current students and former students was a real joy. It was my 50th anniversary, and only a small number of my classmates were there, but we had a great time reminiscing about the good times we shared while at Takoma Academy. I look forward to another alumni weekend when we can come together and greet each other in person once again.”

The celebration concluded with an honor year breakout room session. This provided a opportunity for all honor years ending in zero, one, five and six to reunite. Patty Prasado-Rao ('81) shares, “We had a wonderful surprise of having about 50 people join the Class of 1981 breakout room, including five of our former teachers.”

Organizers concluded that TA's first virtual alumni weekend was an overwhelming success.

Remembering Rob Vandeman: Encourager, Leader and Difference Maker

Like many, I picture Rob smiling every time he comes to mind – that mischievous smile. Rob had a way of navigating challenging waters with grace. Not long after he joined WGTS 91.9 as the president and chair for the board of directors, the station's general manager, John Konrad, passed away quite suddenly. Rob gently brought the station through the crisis of this tremendous loss.

That was his way – an amazing balance of firmness, confidence, and gentleness, and, of course, humor. Our board meetings always included some laughter – which is so good. Laughter brings down walls; it brings people together.

Rob led WGTS 91.9 through a real season of change and growth, including increases in listenership and in listener donations, implementing best practices of operation, navigating the ownership transition and massive growth in outreach through special events, and Hands and Heart ministry projects (which were especially close to his heart).

It was the stories of listeners told through their letters, their phone calls, and in front of the camera that brought that smile back to his face. He felt the power of what God was doing in their lives through WGTS 91.9 and in that moment, he smiled, because it was in that moment that the mission of the organization was realized. This is when it all came together.

A ministry such as WGTS 91.9 requires a dedicated and hardworking team of staff, board members and volunteers. Whether in his role as encourager to the team, leader to the board, liaison to Columbia Union Conference or prayer warrior to the listener, he made a meaningful and lasting difference through this media ministry.

I'd like to challenge myself and each of us to consider how the world would change if each of us lived a life that resulted in being remembered for smiling, and for making a difference for God's Kingdom every day. Let's join together in this wonderful quest.

—Kevin Krueger, WGTS 91.9 president and general manager



Highlights of 2020: A Year of Connection



hands^{and}heart

14 "Fill the Pantry"
food drives to help families in the DMV

14 tons of food
collected from generous WGTS listeners



Health Tips

at 7:40 a.m. on Wednesday with an Adventist Healthcare professional



1,463,684
Prayers prayed by listeners for other listeners on PrayerWorks since we began the ministry in 2011

8,760 hours of life-changing programming



To view the full report, go to wgts919.com/annualreport.

Mid-day host
Becky Aligned

2099 Gaither Road, Suite 105
Rockville, MD 20850
202.902.6000
wgts919.com

For the second year in a row, WGTS 91.9 has been named a Best Christian Workplace by the Best Christian Workplaces Institute (BCWI).





Professor Shawnya Wilborne leads the POCUS training program with teaching support from physicians and fourth-year sonography students.

Teaching the Fine Art of POCUS

By Leigh Wilkins

More than 60 family medicine and internal medicine physicians at Kettering Health receive intensive point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) training each year, thanks to a dynamic partnership with Kettering College.

Sometimes referred to as "the next stethoscope," POCUS refers to the use of traditional and hand-held sonography devices to assess patients in the emergency department, inpatient, and clinic setting. Specialized training is essential, but most medical schools and residency programs do not offer POCUS as part of their curriculum.

Shawnya Wilborne began developing the POCUS curriculum in 2015 at the request of Susan Price, director of the Medical Sonography program at Kettering College. She began with a small pilot program that has since grown to provide each learner with about 50 hours of didactic and hands-on training a year in the college's sonography labs. Instructors include Wilborne, a medical sonographer, internal medicine specialist Andrew Moren, MD; and family physician Wes Halderman, MD.

"I began working with Dr. Moren and Dr. Halderman to create a more robust curriculum for internal medicine residents that would include lectures, guest speakers, and a structured schedule of labs," says Wilborne, who is also a 2002 graduate of Kettering College.

Dr. Halderman and Dr. Moren continue to meet weekly with Wilborne to gain new ultrasound scanning skills and are sometimes joined by other faculty members who have an interest in POCUS. The two physicians say that much of the credit for the POCUS training's success goes to Kettering College.

But perhaps the real MVP is Wilborne, whose contributions to the training program can't be underestimated, Dr. Halderman said. "Shawnya has performed thousands of ultrasound scans, and her expertise is tremendous," he said. "She helps me, Dr. Moren, and our residents with the intangibles we can't learn from a video or a book."

TRANSITIONS



During this pandemic year, our faculty, staff, and students transitioned to virtual teaching and learning. The university also planned and executed a transition to hold the 2021 commencement on the WAU commons for the first time. Graduates, parents, and the learning community appreciated the return to campus and the beautiful setting of the commons for the commencement ceremony. Provost Cheryl Kisunzu and her team effectively made this transition with outstanding outcomes. Congratulations to the Class of 2021!

This year, we are also transitioning from **Vision 2020: Growing with Excellence** to **Vision 2030: Distinctive Excellence in Student Success**. Distinctive Excellence in Student Success is the motto we have adopted to reflect our transformative journey from a good university to a great one. The WAUPlan will be our guide to grow Washington Adventist University into a thriving and distinctive institution of higher education, defined by excellence in student success and in all that we do to support our valued members of the WAU learning community. Our priorities continue to be: access, affordability, completion, value proposition, revenue diversification, employee compensation, social justice, equality, inclusion, and modeling the life and teachings of Jesus.

This is Washington Adventist University!



Weymouth Spence, President



STATE OF WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY: 1904-2021

It is my honor, privilege, and responsibility, according to the Washington Adventist University incorporated bylaws, to report on the establishment, maintenance, and conduct of the University – often referred to as the State of the University.

Based on internal assessments and declarations of independent external agencies, such as the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the Maryland Higher Education Commission, the United States Department of Education, and the Adventist Accrediting Association, Washington Adventist University – the only Seventh-day Adventist higher education in the nation’s capital; a place where minds are engaged, and lives are transformed; the home of the only Adventist Honors College; to God be the glory in this the 117th year of operations – is growing with excellence.

At the recent university Constituency meeting on May 21, 2021, we shared with delegates the abundance of outcomes that demonstrate that the University is growing with excellence and that the growth aligns with the adopted Mission, Vision, and Core Values. These outcomes are now posted on our website – WAU.edu. Much praise and appreciation to Board Chair Dave Weigley and the members of the Board of Trustees, our alumni, and to the dedicated WAU faculty and staff for their valued contributions in continuing to make WAU a desired place for employees to work and for students to learn. When I accepted this amazing leadership opportunity on January 2, 2008, I publicly declared that I must be first vertically connected with Creator God before I can effectively lead and horizontally connect with people.

I still believe in this vertical connection. The theme of my presidency continues to be: Connections. Because of this vertical connection I can declare that God is my refuge and strength, a very present help in these troubled times in higher education. Therefore, I will not fear because this is God’s University, even though the enrollment may dip, even though the finances may rise and fall. This is God’s work, and instead of murmuring and complaining about resources or anything else, I will give God the praise and thanks for the blessings we have in our hands.

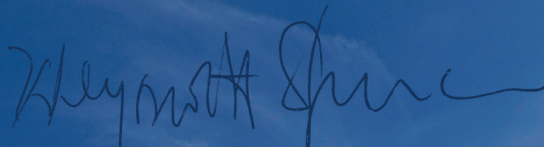
My friends, leadership is stewardship. We are called as God’s stewards to manage that which belongs to God. While God has graciously entrusted us with the care and development of everything he owns, as his stewards, we are responsible for managing his holdings well and according to his desires and purposes. With the Mission as the foundation, we have established the six pillars of excellence to make the WAU Vision a reality. These six pillars of excellence are Quality, People, Finance, Growth, Service, and Community. It is not our intention to prioritize these pillars, but clearly, the People pillar is essential. God uses people, stewards to invest in the gifts and talents he has given to us to be of service to others.

Washington Adventist University is in a unique and distinctive position to prepare learners for the workforce and for eternal life. To make this vision a reality, we have embraced the concept of creating a learner-centered institution. A learner-centered institution emphasizes learning outcomes and focuses on the success of all students. We have adopted the Relationship Rich Education concepts. The success of an institution of higher education is directly proportional to the success of students. What learners know and can do – Competence – becomes the measure of their value to an employer and their community.

We will continue to model the Christian education of Jesus so that all our graduates will grow in wisdom, physical development, and in favor with God and humanity. Christian education is the guaranteed pathway to success.

Please visit our website for much more details on the state of Washington Adventist University. We solicit your prayers and support during these challenging times in higher education. We are committed to the shared vision to produce graduates who bring competence and moral leadership to their communities.

This is Washington Adventist University!



Weymouth Spence, President

wau.edu

The Course of Kindness

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."
– Aesop

Have you ever thought about where the word kind came from? It is a very old word that we've been using in some form or another for more than a thousand years.

The root word is kin, which means family, as in kindred, or my kinfolk, or just my kin. To be family was to be kinned, and over the centuries it was contracted to kind.

So kindness literally means "like family." In practical terms, it means to regard all of humankind as belonging to one great family, one great kinship – and to treat one another accordingly.

This idea of the kinship of all humanity is universal in religious and ethical thought, and it is older than the words we use to describe it. Perhaps we can reclaim this connection between kin and kindness.

Kindness exemplifies our Mission to extend God's care through the ministry of physical, mental, and spiritual healing. It is an important expression of our sacred calling to provide the world class care that will result in healing for the whole person.

It is through kindness that everyone with whom we interact – including our patients and their families, those in the communities we serve, and the teams with whom we work each day – can sense the seriousness with which we regard our Mission.

Kindness brings a special focus to our work and helps deepen our understanding and appreciation for those around us. Kindness helps establish trust and strengthens relationships. Kindness creates an environment for growth. It nurtures healing.

This is not just a technique or a psychological trick. The practice of kindness changes the way we think about our shared task and energizes every interaction. When kindness becomes routine, it has a way of impacting everything we do, and it is a benefit to all of our kindred, the whole human family, to which we all belong.

Terry Forde
President & CEO
Adventist HealthCare



Leaders from Adventist HealthCare, The US Oncology Network and Maryland Oncology Hematology help dedicate the new White Oak Cancer Center that offers comprehensive care in one convenient location.

Hope & Healing at New Cancer Center

On May 17, Adventist HealthCare and its partner Maryland Oncology Hematology held a Dedication Ceremony for the new White Oak Cancer Center in Silver Spring, Maryland. Leaders from Adventist HealthCare, Maryland Oncology Hematology and The US Oncology Network gathered to celebrate the opening of the center that is focused on the physical, mental and spiritual healing of its patients.

The White Oak Cancer Center, located in the Medical Pavilion on the Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center campus, offers comprehensive cancer care – including chemotherapy, radiation, nutrition, surgical care and other support services – to the communities of Eastern Montgomery County and the surrounding area.

The White Oak Cancer Center is a partnership between Adventist HealthCare, Maryland Oncology Hematology, one of the top providers of cancer care in the region and The US Oncology Network. Through this partnership, physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals work together to provide compassionate, personalized care using the latest technology and treatments.

A cancer diagnosis can be frightening and overwhelming. The physicians and other providers at the center are committed to helping ease that burden for patients and their loved ones. At the dedication, Anthony Stahl, president of White Oak Medical Center, shared how his mother's cancer diagnosis years ago left his family waiting for answers and care to begin and how the White Oak Cancer Center helps patients by offering coordinated cancer care in one place. "Those fears can be alleviated so rapidly as someone is diagnosed. Treatment can begin in the hands of amazing physicians."

To learn more about Adventist HealthCare's comprehensive cancer care, visit [AdventistHealthCare.com/Cancer](https://www.adventisthealthcare.com/Cancer).

Living Our Mission to Extend God's Healing

2021 Amputee Awareness 5k Walk, Wheel or Run



Showing their hallmark resilience, participants in Adventist HealthCare's 2021 Amputee Awareness 5k Walk, Wheel or Run went "virtual" this year – and celebrated a record turnout with 549 registrants from across 13 states and donations over \$30,000!

100% of these funds will be used to directly benefit Adventist HealthCare Rehabilitation's patients with limb loss to help them receive prosthetics, devices and other necessities that aid them in their recovery and empower them to live fuller, more independent lives.



One of the many teams that went "virtual" for our annual Amputee Awareness 5K. Participants sent pictures from local parks, neighborhoods and even treadmills!

Honored for Our Commitment to

Safety

Two Adventist HealthCare programs, one that tracks patients with COVID-19 symptoms and another to prevent harm from duplicate medications, were honored by the Maryland Patient Safety Center in its 2021 Minogue Awards for Patient Safety Innovation.

The awards recognize the state's top safety and quality solutions in healthcare. "With over 50 submissions to choose from, we know that healthcare organizations here in Maryland are some of the most forward thinking throughout the country," said Blair Eig, MD, President and CEO of the Maryland Patient Safety Center, as he congratulated Adventist HealthCare for winning the Distinguished Achievement award.

"We are committed to providing the safest care to every patient, every day" said Susan Glover, RN, and Adventist HealthCare's Senior Vice President and Chief Quality & Integrity Officer. "This recognition from the Maryland Patient Safety Center highlights the ongoing dedication of the leaders and healthcare heroes in our system to find new ways to safely care for our patients."



New Imaging Center Opens in White Oak

A new Adventist HealthCare Imaging center opened in the White Oak area this May, near Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center.

The new center offers a full range of advanced imaging services including MRI, CT, X-ray, bone density scan and Ultrasound. Specialized women's imaging services, including 3D mammography, are also provided with a focus on breast cancer prevention and early detection. The new center joins six other Adventist HealthCare Imaging centers and is the first in the Eastern Montgomery County, Maryland area.



Making Vaccines Easy

Adventist HealthCare continues to play an important role in the state of Maryland's efforts to vaccinate residents against COVID-19. To make vaccines more convenient and accessible than ever, Adventist HealthCare is now offering vaccinations through its Urgent Care and many Adventist Medical Group locations, as well as through its joint venture with CoreLife weight loss centers.

Growing Our Business, Expanding Our Mission



By Fred Manchur, CEO

We have entered a new chapter in the journey of our organization. But before we look too far ahead, I want to pause and reflect on how far we've come.

Since our founding, we've grown in ways we never thought possible—adding new services, opening new facilities, and reaching new people. We've also braved challenges we could have never imagined—the shifting sands of healthcare legislation, the rise of the digital age, and, most notably, the pandemic of our generation.

What a journey it has been—but, I'm here to tell you that the best is yet to come.

As we work toward creating a consistent care experience across every facility in our network, the time has come to create an identity that reflects our shared mission, vision, and values.

I'm excited to announce that Kettering Adventist HealthCare, also known as Kettering Health Network, is now Kettering Health. By updating our name, logo and colors, we ensure our brand reflects the high-quality, faith-based care displayed across our network every day. With this change, we will also be changing the consumer-facing names of our facilities to emphasize where our care is located and what services are provided, making it easier for our communities to find the care they need. Across the system, all facilities and services will begin with Kettering Health.

A brand is more than a logo or a name. It's more than the bricks and mortar that create our buildings. It is our mission in action. And make no mistake: our mission is in action every day. Through the tireless and unwavering commitment of our staff and caregivers, we are improving lives with compassionate healthcare and life-changing education.

Throughout Jesus' life, His mission was clear: to transform lives wherever He went. He changed the course of history by meeting the physical, earthly needs of those He met. He made the lame to walk, the blind to see, and the dead to rise again.

Christ's mission is summed up by a promise He made in John 10:10:

**"I came that they
may have life and
have it abundantly."**

As we move into this new chapter, we will follow in His footsteps, by guiding every person to their best health.

To learn more, I encourage you to visit our new website at ketteringhealth.com and check out some of our stories on our Kettering Health YouTube channel.



Bringing Food to a Neighborhood in Need

It has been a long time since the west Dayton neighborhood has had a grocery store, making the community travel great distances to buy food for their families. Local partnerships, including Kettering Health, has allowed Gem City Market to open its doors to a community in need. Shelves will be stocked with perishable and non-perishable items. Health screenings, after-school programs, and exercise programs will be offered along with cooking classes in a community kitchen area.



Blessing of the Hands



To celebrate Nurses Week, Kettering Medical Center nurses participated in a Blessing of the Hands ceremony offered by Chaplain Elliot Smith. The use of oil to bless nurses' hands is a Nurse Week tradition symbolizing healing and anointing.

Human touch is such an important component of healthcare. The anointing and blessing of hands reminds our care teams of the holistic care they provide as they help every person lead a full and healthy life—body, mind, and spirit.

Showing Kindness After Heartache

To honor their son, Lincoln, who was stillborn, Lauren and David Herman donated a Caring Cradle to Soin Medical Center. These important devices allow parents more time with an infant who has passed.

A Caring Cradle is a bassinet that slows down some processes giving the family to have more time with their loved one.



VISITOR ADVERTISING AND SERVICES ■ The *Visitor* does not guarantee the integrity of any product or service advertised and does not accept responsibility for typographical or categorical errors. For advertising guidelines and rates: columbiaunionvisitor.com/advertising

EMPLOYMENT

ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE

Adventist HealthCare is the first and largest provider of health care in Montgomery County, Maryland, serving the Washington, D.C., area since 1907.

Recently ranked as one of Forbes Best-in-State Employers in 2020. Find a career you'll love. Learn more about available opportunities and apply at:

AdventistHealthCare.com/Careers

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is seeking a full-time teaching faculty in the School of Business in the areas of finance and economics for face-to-face classroom instruction. For full description and list of qualifications, please visit southern.edu/job.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is seeking qualified candidates for HVAC Lead Master Technician - Plant Services. The HVAC technician will install, troubleshoot, repair and perform preventive maintenance on central heat and air systems, water source heat pump systems, PTACs, chillers, boilers, freezers, ice machines and other refrigeration. Other jobs as assigned related to the maintenance, renovation and construction of campus facilities. Certification for refrigeration and HVAC Universal preferred, and a minimum of five years of experience as a heating/air conditioning and refrigeration specialist with varied experience in maintenance tasks is preferred. For a detailed description and qualifications, please visit: southern.edu/jobs.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is seeking qualified candidates for Waste-water Collection System Operator - Plant Services. The Waste-water Collection System Operator will be responsible for the Southern Adventist University waste-water

collection system, its operations, reporting requirements and repairs. Must have a Waste-water Collection System Operator license. Must have knowledge of how to perform all system maintenance and repair functions. Must be experienced in all duties listed above. Basic computer skills required. Must be able to read, write and speak English fluently. Must hold a valid U.S. driver's license with reasonable driving record. For full description and qualifications: southern.edu/jobs.

UNION COLLEGE, Lincoln Neb., is seeking applicants for a religion program faculty with an emphasis on discipling. M.Div. or masters in a related field required, D.Min. or Ph.D. preferred. See the full job description and instructions for application at ucollege.edu/employment under faculty jobs.

UNION COLLEGE, Lincoln, Neb., seeks candidates for business program professor to prepare professionals for Christian service in the business world. MBA or master's degree required; doctoral degree preferred. Please view job description and instructions for application under faculty jobs at ucollege.edu/employment.

MISCELLANEOUS

CASKETS FOR ADVENTISTS: High quality, 20-gauge steel. Includes picture of the second coming of Jesus in the head panel; picture of the 10 commandments on either side; 1 Thess. 4:13-18 below the head panel and the three angels' messages at the end of the casket. Under \$800. For more information, call our office: (865) 882-0773 or (865) 804-2388; email wilson658375@bellsouth.net; or visit 1844casketsforadventists.com.

THE AUTUMN OF OUR LIVES, the delightful life story of Pastor Jim Hoffer. With 150 pages and over 100 pictures, adventure, mission stories, family history, humor and poetry. Details and ordering information at LostArkSeminar.com.

4 GRAVE SITES FOR SALE, located in George Washington

Cemetery, Adelphi, Md. Suggested cemetery price: \$3,795. Asking \$3,000 each OBO. jaidarnell@gmail.com

SERVICES

HEALTH WORRIES OR CHRONIC ALIMENTS? Even serious problems can have simple, safe solutions. For 17 years, we have helped patients have less pain, more energy, easier work and better family time. Available nationwide, our discount laboratory testing and telemedicine program helps people seeking effective, natural options for headaches, TBI and cognitive decline, poor digestion and IBS, diabetes and heart challenges, asthma, allergies and autoimmune problems, hormone and mood imbalances, arthritis and musculoskeletal pain, and chronic issues like Lyme, etc. Experience our personalized, Adventist physician directed, nutritional supplement and lifestyle plan today. For a free consultation, contact drcrolland@hotmail.com or (814) 734-5000 weekdays.

ELTERNHAUS ASSISTED LIVING, Adventist family-owned and -operated, provides specialized care for seniors in a family home-style setting. Delicious vegetarian food, activities, Friday night vespers and a shuttle to church Sabbath morning, just to name a few of the many options. Take a look at our newly updated website, elternhausalf.com. Elternhaus also offers a great work environment for Adventist caregivers, LPNs and RNs. Call Tim Mayer, (240) 286-3635.

NEW/USED ADVENTIST BOOKS: TEACH SERVICES helps authors publish their book, including editing, design, marketing and worldwide distribution. Call (800) 367-1844 for a free evaluation. Visit LNFBKBOOKS.com for used books and your local ABC or TEACHServices.com for new book releases.

MARYLAND ADVENTIST DENTIST, DAVID LEE, DDS, FAGD, AFAAID, FICOI, FAACP, has practices located in Silver Spring and Columbia, Md. He is extensively trained in implant, cosmetic, TMD/TMJ, sleep apnea treatment, sedation and laser dentistry. Dr. Lee is an Associate Fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry, as well as having many other certifications. For appointments, call (301) 649-5001 or (410) 461-6655. Mention this ad and receive a

10 percent discount on all services, excluding third-party payers. We welcome new patients!

MOVE with an award-winning agency. Apex Moving & Storage partners with the General Conference to provide quality moves at a discounted rate. Call us for your relocation needs. Adventist beliefs uncompromised. Call Marcy Danté at (800) 766-1902 for a free estimate. Visit us at apexmoving.com/adventist.

TRAVEL

ADVENTIST TOURS 2022: Israel in Jesus' Steps, March 9-17 & June 12-21 (optional Jordan/Egypt); New Testament Alive/7 Churches, June 2-12; African Safari & Service, May 24-31; Germany-Austria: Luther to WWII, June 22-July 1 (includes Oberammergau Passion Play); Thailand, July 27-Aug. 7. All tours are Adventist-led, with excellent rates and beautiful experiences for all ages. \$1,750+/person. For full details, contact tabghatours@gmail.com or facebook.com/TabghaTours or call (423) 298-2169.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOIN UNION SPRINGS ACADEMY celebrating 100 years of ministry and service. All alumni, former faculty and staff are invited to celebrate God's goodness and leading at our centennial weekend, September 17-19. Visit unionspringsacademy.org for more details and updates.

ONLINE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Now Available on the **Visitor Website:** columbiaunionvisitor.com/onlineads

Submit any time!

No ad submission deadlines!

Posted within five business days!

Switch out ads every 30 days!

Discounts available!

For rates and more information: columbiaunionvisitor.com/advertising

Bulletin Board

Authentic

sponsorship 2021

Join **Shawn and Jean Boonstra** on **September 26** in College Park, Maryland, for Sponsorship Connections, a one-day celebration of God's faithfulness to His people and the Voice of Prophecy.

This fundraising event will include an inspirational message by Pastor Shawn, soul-stirring music, a catered vegetarian lunch and a *Discovery Mountain*-themed children's program.

To register, visit vopsponsors.com or call **800.429.5700**.



voice of prophecy
vopsponsors.com | 1.800.429.5700

Sunset Calendar

	July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30	Aug 6	Aug 13	Aug 20	Aug 27
Baltimore	8:37	8:35	8:32	8:27	8:21	8:14	8:05	7:56	7:46
Cincinnati	9:08	9:06	9:03	8:59	8:52	8:45	8:37	8:27	8:17
Cleveland	9:04	9:02	8:59	8:54	8:47	8:39	8:30	8:20	8:09
Columbus	9:05	9:03	9:00	8:55	8:48	8:41	8:32	8:23	8:12
Jersey City	8:31	8:30	8:26	8:21	8:15	8:07	7:58	7:48	7:38
Norfolk	8:28	8:27	8:24	8:20	8:14	8:07	8:00	7:51	7:41
Parkersburg	8:57	8:55	8:52	8:47	8:41	8:33	8:25	8:16	8:06
Philadelphia	8:33	8:31	8:28	8:23	8:17	8:09	8:01	7:51	7:41
Pittsburgh	8:54	8:52	8:49	8:44	8:37	8:30	8:21	8:11	8:01
Reading	8:37	8:36	8:32	8:27	8:21	8:13	8:05	7:55	7:44
Richmond	8:35	8:34	8:31	8:26	8:21	8:14	8:06	7:57	7:47
Roanoke	8:44	8:43	8:40	8:35	8:30	8:23	8:15	8:06	7:57
Toledo	9:13	9:11	9:07	9:02	8:55	8:47	8:38	8:28	8:17
Trenton	8:32	8:31	8:27	8:22	8:16	8:08	8:00	7:50	7:40
Wash., D.C.	8:37	8:36	8:33	8:28	8:22	8:15	8:06	7:57	7:47



GLOBAL AFFAIRS

— TODAY —

Tune in as we explore issues constantly seen and heard in the 24-hour news cycle, but often not discussed in depth, or in ways that get to the heart of the matter.

Sundays at 11 AM EST

HopeTV.org

Columbia Union Revolving Fund

MAKING MINISTRY POSSIBLE



Reaching Hearts International Seventh-day Adventist Church, Laurel, Md.

When we started our journey with a vision for a new church plant in the year 2000, we were worshipping in a tent in Spencerville, Md., hoping to soon have a church of our own. Under the leadership of our then conference President, Elder Charles Cheatham, working closely with our pastor, myself, the treasurer, and a few others, we finally prevailed in a landmark religious liberty victory in federal court that changed the law of the land. That change opened up the providential door for us to build our church on 17 acres of fertile farm land in West Laurel, Md. All of our prayers to God in every hour of struggle leading up to the legal victory would have been for naught if the Columbia Union Revolving Fund had not come to our rescue at the last hour. Our friends at the Columbia Union Revolving Fund, working hand in hand with the executive officers of the Allegheny East Conference found a way for us to realize our long-held dream. Today we worship in a beautiful facility with a large cross that reaches high toward the sky, showing the whole world that our church is a gift from God.

—Thomas Kunjoo, Treasurer

Since 1968 the Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF) has been providing low-interest loans and financing for Seventh-day Adventist church and school building and renovating projects so as to facilitate growth. What started as a \$200,000 fund with investments from members has grown to a \$182 million resource that makes ministry possible.

By providing loans for more than 2,000 projects to date, CURF has helped further the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church all across the Columbia Union.

Learn more: (866) 721-CURF /
columbiaunionrevolvingfund.org

CURF



Helping Finance the Gospel Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

This advertisement does not constitute an offer to sell nor a solicitation of an offer to buy securities. Any offer to sell securities issued by CURF is made only through its Offering Circular. No one should consider any investment in CURF Notes other than by careful reference to the Offering Circular. Neither FDIC, SIPC nor any other government agency guarantees or insures repayment of CURF Notes.